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THE TURKISH LOAN.

YOUR money and your life are the sacrifices you must be prepared to make if you go to war. Until we have some very decided news to tell from the Crimea, the best thing we can do is to talk a little of the pecuniary aspect of the matter, as it comes before us in the Turkish Loan. How can you serve your ally more effectually than with money? It is a thoroughly British way of assisting him! So, the

Government have entered into an engagement for securing to our friend the Turk the sum of "five millions sterling"—guaranteeing the payment—transmitting the proceeds—giving him the aid, in fact, in the most practicable way; and providing (on the other side) that the 4 per cent. interest and the 1 per cent. sinking-fund shall be made chargeable on his revenues—especially his Egyptian tribute and the Smyrniate and Syrian Customs. This very important matter, agreed

on between France, England, and Turkey, was brought before Parliament in committee on the 20th instant. Little was expected by the public from it; and there was a very general feeling of surprise when it came out that the Ministry had had a narrow escape from a beating on the occasion. We do things on so splendid a scale, now-a-days, that people generally make light of five millions. For, if there be any general unity at all in the country, it is in the



ST SWITHIN'S DAY IN THE OLDEN TIME.—(DESIGNED BY KENNY MEADOWS.)

notion that we must go on with the war in a magnificent manner. Rather than injure the war, we have submitted to the hard task of declining to censure its mal-administrators; rather than injure the war, we permit the rule of a Ministry in which nobody feels any hearty enthusiasm—which exists for want of a better, and is cherished as a man cherishes a wooden leg, because he has not a flesh-and-blood one; and rather than injure the war, we are disposed to let Turkey have our millions on any decent pretext. On this kind of theory, we explain the fact, that, though financiers frown and Manchester moans, England has shown no wish to deprive the Sultan of the aid which our Ministers propose for him.

But though the great wide public recks little of the Sultan's need of our piastres,—and though, as we firmly believe, “in for a penny in for a pound” is the current expression about the matter,—it is only fair to give the opposition to this way of assisting Turkey its fair prominence. And the affair, too, opens some general questions about Turkey and her prospects, of high interest. There is no doubt, likewise, that we have a peace party of no little activity and readiness—always on the look-out to paralyse our exertions at home and abroad, under the plea of our welfare—risking everything to injure the war, even the honour of the country which carries it on, and which might suffer by a mistaken peacefulness, as much as by a mistaken warlike zeal. These last persons will become important if we make any serious mistakes; and, in a party point of view, the best thing that could happen to them would be a national calamity. There is Mr. Bright, for instance. Let us fail at Sebastopol, and not get the Turkish money back, and Mr. Bright will set up for a prophet who always foresees the event. Manchester will look out Cassandra in Lempiere; and when England is in mourning, we shall have half-a-dozen agitators congratulating themselves on their superior foresight.

Hence, as we said above, it would be as well to listen with attention to whatever is urged against the measures proposed for carrying on the war efficiently. To trust a government, silently, is what nobody now thinks of in England. To urge every war measure, rashly, would be equally absurd. Of course, we are told that it is the interest of newspapers to stimulate the war feeling, &c.; but it is not the interest of newspapers to stultify themselves in the eyes of the public by which they are supported; and we give the public, accordingly, our best aid to understanding what has been advanced in opposition to the loan under discussion.

The most respectable opposition came from the scientific men—for the opposition which is merely political is not worth so much. Mr. Ricardo objects to the “system of subsidies.” He reminds us that a great part of our national debt is made up from them. He objects, also, to the joint guarantee with France; and hints at the possibility of a future government of France repudiating the liability. The ill-fortune of the Greek loan was also dwelt on by this gentleman. Mr. Laing was more general than Mr. Ricardo. He spoke of the “fatal facility” of raising money in this kind of way. He further said that, in this attempt to assist Turkey, we compromised her independence; and he made a difficulty of our relation with France in the matter, for might not France want an island, or some such recompense, in case Turkey failed to pay? These were among the objections on the first occasion. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's reply was to the effect that, “although the guarantee was joint in form, it was, in fact, a separate guarantee.” France, in fact, would pay one-half, in case the two Governments were called upon to make the guarantee good. To this he added a strong statement of the necessity of the case in Turkey's present condition. And, in this kind of way the case was argued on the 20th, when the majority was so narrow as to cause the greatest excitement at the Government being so close run.

We now come to the proceedings of last Monday. The Report of the Committee was brought up. The discussion assumed a more general tone; and gave rise to a speech by Mr. Layard in particular, which, (as he was speaking on a subject he knew) we read with more than ordinary pleasure. For, after all, the “condition of Turkey” was the question at the bottom of the whole affair; and Mr. Bright had taken occasion to say all he could to cause alarm on that point. He used the expression “under pretence of defending,” as usual assuming that there was some other object than the defence of Turkey intended in this war; which he cannot prove, but which he is quite ready to assert. However, if Turkey is badly off in having to borrow, she would still be worse off were she at Russia's mercy. And is it true that her internal prospects are so hopeless? Here was the interest of Mr. Layard's speech. He confirmed the statement of Lord Palmerston that “no country had made such rapid progress as Turkey had during the last fifteen years.” He further showed that she had been frequently checked in useful measures by Russia (by acts such as this war will hinder in future), and even spoke of the five millions as a “trifling debt” compared with her resources, were those resources developed. Mr. Gladstone called him a sincere fanatic—which requires no remark,—and stated his own main objection to the convention in dispute to be its probable bad political consequences. He is haunted by a notion that, by and by, England and France will quarrel about the settlement of the debt. He complains that no minister tells us what will be done in case of such a dispute arising.

It is impossible to deny that the arguments against the loan in the form agreed upon, are weighty and important. But in the presence of Turkey's necessities—though a great deal may be said—the notable point is what can be done. We do not observe that anybody denies the necessities of Turkey, nor do we observe any other plan proposed by which they are to be met. Those necessities of hers have flowed out of the war, and while we maintain the war, we must provide for them. The wisdom of the Greek loan may be doubted, but a more imperious necessity exists in this case than existed when that loan was made. We are occupying the seas and territories of Turkey at our convenience; and (as a secondary object of the war is to preserve ourselves through Turkey), also for our convenience. This gives her a claim. But the urgency of the crisis is the most important thing in favour of the loan. Turkey must have money, and only through the support of England and France can she obtain it. We believe the country will (not without wry faces), accept the present scheme, rather than raise a new embarrassment—an embarrassment involving three allies in unpleasant relations in the middle of a great war.

Now that Turkey is brought before us again, in her old character of a country with “undeveloped resources,” it would be as well if our Government kept an eye on the question, what can we do to forward that development? We are paying the penalty, now, of a long series of blunders in Oriental matters. We have puffed up a mock constitutional Government which favours Russia in Greece; and let Turkey lose her Persian trade in Asia Minor. Our consuls in those parts of the world are the most incompetent of

mankind. By communicating European science to the East, a great deal of good may be done, and much was done through it in Egypt in the days of Mehemet Ali. But nothing can be done without energy, which in any kind of quiet usefulness our Governments never show. With a fine vivacity, they destroyed the Turkish fleet at Navarino; and with much activity, mauled the towns of Syria in 1840. But no such liveliness has ever marked our conduct in our friendly relations with the Powers of those regions. We have, now, in opening communications for supplies with Asia Minor, an excellent opportunity of learning something of the prospects of trade there, and paving the ways for the progress of commerce. The war may thus lead to consequences more important and more beneficial than have been predicted by the most sanguine. The most ignorant member of the Peace Society must have heard at some time that war is only tolerated by wise men in as far as it plays the pioneer of civilisation in this way. To the expedition of Alexander we owe the overland route,—by steps as clear and distinct as those of her Majesty's pedigree.

The Government triumphed in this matter; but it was not a triumph at all of a glorious character. We are still glad, however, (in the present chaotic state of the governing system) that nothing happened to make our internal disruptions more fatal than could be helped. We must be content with “holding our own” at present in Europe; and not to have made a retrograde movement is, as times go, a victory for England.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.—The Rev. Mr. Scott, of Cambridge, has been appointed Head Master, in place of Mr. Leddel, appointed to the Deanship of Christ-Church, Oxford.

ST. SWITHIN'S DAY.

EVERYBODY is aware that, if it rains on St. Swithin's Day, there will—as sure as pork is pig—be rain, “more or less,” for forty succeeding days. On the other hand, it will not make much difference if St. Swithin's Day should be as fine as a prize gooseberry and as dry as Scotch snuff, for there will still be rain, “less or more,” for forty succeeding days. This year, for instance, the 15th of July was a remarkably beautiful day; not a drop of water fell big enough to drown a money-spider in. The water-carts were about; the pavements were as dry and as white as a kitchen hearth-stone; and the dust was both plentiful and disagreeable, turning black trousers into white ones and white trousers into black ones, settling on your hair, getting into your eyes, and powdering you all over like a chicken for sale. We made up our minds that we were to have forty days of uninterrupted sunshine, and went to bed thinking over the country trips we would make, and the invitations to pic-nics we would accept—as soon as we received them. But about 2 o'clock on the morning of the 16th, we were awoken from our sleep by a sound against the window panes, as if some villain was pelting them with peas. It was the rain, it was old St. Swithin! He was late by two hours—had missed his appointment. As if angry with his want of punctuality, he was making up for lost time by emptying his water-buckets with savage rapidity. It was not an ordinary shower, for the drops that came up against our window were as big as detonating balls, and broke with a sharp crack directly they struck the glass. We went to bed again, hoping that the wet saint might break somebody's valuable plate-glass shop-panes, be prosecuted by the insurance company, and get locked up for the remainder of the forty days he is allowed by tradition for soaking us to the skin.

Those who have been drenched in these troublesome July showers may perhaps like to know something of the history of the moist saint who causes them. He was born of poor, and, perhaps, honest parents. His father was a turncock; even if he was not, he ought to have been one. At an early age, young Swithin became a monk and a teetotaller. Having some interest in the Wittenagemot, he was raised to the dignity of Bishop of Winchester. Most probably King Ethelwulf the Dane bestowed this honour upon him, thinking that one of so wet a disposition could not be better disposed of than by letting him drain off his life in a see; or perhaps Swithin's evident intimacy with the *raining* powers may have had some political influence.

Scarcely had he been made a bishop, when Swithin wrought his first miracle. In Poor Robin's Almanack for 1697, we read—

A woman having broke her eggs
By stumbling at another's legs;
For which she made a woeful cry—
St. Swithin chanc'd for to come by,
Who made them all as round, or more,
Than ever that they were before."

In the year 865 this sloppy Bishop died, and the Pope instantly canonised him. On his death-bed he composed a poem, commencing with “Happy the corpse the rain falls on,” and expressed a desire to be buried in the open churchyard, and not in the chancel of the minster, as was usual with other bishops. His greatest horror seemed to be a dry tomb: his greatest wish, that his dust might be constantly laid by the showers of heaven.

When the monks heard that the dead Bishop had been made a saint, they thought it disgraceful that his holy bones should be allowed to rest in the open burial ground, and resolved to remove his body into the choir, which was to have been done with solemn procession on the 15th of July.

On that day, however, the monks had scarcely fallen into their ranks, when down came the rain, as though the string of a shower-bath had been suddenly pulled. The holy brethren stayed for a long time under cover, looking about to see if the clouds were clearing away, but were at last forced to postpone the ceremony until the next day. This time they took their umbrellas with them, but the wind soon twisted them inside-out; the rain trickled off down their necks; and the heavy drops pelted their shaven crowns like so many marbles, so that they were again forced to beat a retreat. Every succeeding day they made the same attempt, putting on their waterproof cassocks, or their thick sandals; but the only result was, that before a fortnight was over, every monk had a cold in the head, and at prayer-time sung out *Pader Dosder* instead of *Pater Noster*. For forty days it rained so violently, “as had hardly ever been known,” so that the reverend gentlemen, fearing lest a second deluge might visit them, set aside their design as heretical and blasphemous. In revenge for their duckings, they erected a chapel over the saint's grave, so that he was cheated out of his loved showers; and until that building is removed, the curse of the forty days' rain will continue.

St. Swithin is the perpetual patron of the honourable company of umbrella makers and menders. On the day that the first umbrella was made in England, there was a fearful storm, and it rained for two years “more or less.” This saint has also from time immemorial had something to do with the management of Vauxhall Gardens. Since the Royal property has been closed, the Chiswick *fêtes* have secured his patronage—an honour which, although flattering, has not as yet been remunerative. Messrs. Barclay and Perkins christened their celebrated London porter “heavy wet,” out of compliment to St. Swithin, on whose day it was invented; but those who retail this invigorating beverage, have since carried out the politeness to such a preposterous degree, that the compliment to the saint has degenerated into an insult to the Londoner.

There is a badly-written proverb, which says,—

“If St. Swithin greets (weeps), the proverb says,
The weather will be foul for forty days;
A shower of rain in July, when the corn begins to fill,
Is worth a plough of oxen, and all that belongs therewith.
Some rain, some rest,
Fine weather isn't always best.”

Perhaps the reader has noticed that whenever the weather is disagreeable, he is always certain to be told that it is a capital time for the farmers. The other day we were standing under a doorway, sheltering from a sheet of rain that fish might have swam in, when a gentleman remarked that every drop of it was worth a sovereign to the farmers. It might have been excellent for them; but it was decidedly bad for our hat, which was as wet

as a house-flannel, and extremely injurious to our boots, which were as soaking as filtering paper.

At Winchester, the people say, that when it rains on St. Swithin's Day, it is the saint christening the little apples. Our artist has chosen this saying for the subject of his illustration. The apples on the bushes are being “discreetly and warily” dipped in the falling shower, and receive their names of ribstone, lemon, or golden pippin, whichever it may be. The gentleman in the background, although he has nothing of the look of a saint, seems anxious to join in the ceremony, and baptize the apple checks of the ladies near him.

Tom Hood, who had, of course, an inveterate dislike to rainy weather, did his utmost to insult the memory of the soaking saint, by writing an ode in his honour.

“Folks rail and swear at you in every place,
They say you are a creature of no bowel;
They say you're always washing Nature's face,
And that you then supply her with nothing dryer
Than some old wringing cloud by way of towel!
The whole town wants you duck'd, just as you duck it,
They wish you on your own mud porridge supper'd—
They hope that you may kick your own big bucket,
Or in your water-butt go souse! heels up'ard!
They are, in short, so weary of your drizzle,
They'll spill the water in your veins to stop it.
Be warned! you are too partial to a muzzle.
Pray, drop it.”

Blount, who is a matter-of-fact and learned antiquarian, and takes delight in doing away with absurd fallacies, tells us that the story of St. Swithin, and the monks is all fudge. “He was called the weeping St. Swithin, for that, about his feast, Prosepe and Aselli, rainy constellations, arise cosmically, and commonly cause rain.”

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

QUEEN VICTORIA is expected on the 16th at Calais. Orders have been sent to make suitable preparations to receive her Majesty. The Emperor will soon leave for the Pyrenees, and accompany the Empress to Paris. Their Majesties, it is said, will proceed to Calais to meet the Queen.

The new loan is still attracting thousands to the offices opened to receive subscriptions, and more than one mairie in Paris may recall to the minds of passers-by the crowds that used to throng the Rue Quincampoix in the days of the Regent Duke of Orleans, when Law's Mississippi scheme was at fever height.

General Count Zamoiski has arrived in Paris from Constantinople, on his way to England, where he has been summoned by a telegraphic despatch, to make arrangements with the Government for the organisation of the Foreign Legion in the Crimea.

SPAIN.

On the 17th inst., the Cortes adjourned, after voting the budget. A loan of 40 millions of reals is to be contracted abroad.

A telegraphic despatch from Perpignan, announces that the Carlist chiefs, Borges and Tristany, at the head of a band of 30 men, have entered Catalonia, from the territory of the diminutive Republic Andorre, where they have been hiding for some time past. They are pursued by three columns, and no doubt will be soon driven back or taken.

AUSTRIA.

It is stated that if France and England will accept the principle of the guarantees, Austria pledges herself, in the event of Russia refusing, to openly proclaim her complete adherence to those Powers, and to resist the presence of a single Russian soldier on any part of the Ottoman territory in Europe.

GERMANY.

A LETTER from Nuremberg, in Bavaria, states that the police had arrested on the 7th inst., two Russian agents as they were about to leave by railway with two gunsmiths, whom they had engaged; and a Russian officer who had arrived there had been placed under surveillance. Several of the gunsmiths have, it is said, been engaged for Russia by the promise of a fixed salary of 500 silver roubles (the rouble is about 4*l.*), and many contingent advantages.

The intelligence that the Duke of Cambridge is to take the command of the Foreign Legion has given the Legionaries great satisfaction, and when it becomes generally known in Germany cannot fail to induce many to join the corps.

RUSSIA.

It is reported by those likely to be well informed, that a marked change of opinion prevails in the Russian capital. Lord John Russell and M. Drouyn de Lhuys are held up as martyrs to the truth. The Russian Government, it is said, protests solemnly to Austria that she is still disposed to forget and forgive; that she still accepts the principle of the four guarantees, and will accept it under any circumstance of success or disaster, under any eventualities of the war, and that this declaration she will repeat even on the ruins of Sebastopol; and she calls on Austria in the most solemn manner to aid her by her moral influence, and not to abandon her in such a cause.

Prince Paskiewitch is said to be seriously ill, and his system appears to be breaking up.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

TURKISH reinforcements continue to be sent to the fortified places of the Lower Danube; and the total Turkish force now quartered from Scutumla to Babadagh, may be estimated at 45,000 men. Letters from Varna repeat that an attack of the Allies on Odessa is considered imminent. At Varna great activity is displayed in preparing for the reception of a large body of men from France, who are expected at the beginning of August; the French and Turkish commissioners officers are getting in immense supplies there. The English on their part are collecting great quantities of cattle, corn, and provisions at Sinope; they have also established there a depot of horses, and are about to send 5,000 to the Crimea; they have likewise purchased a great number of camels. Since the Turks have occupied Matchin, Isaktoha, and Tultcha, the navigation has encountered great obstacles, and in consequence of the complaints to which this state of things has given rise, a steamer has been stationed at Sulina, and another at Galatz.

PIEDMONT.

THE local authorities, assisted by agents of the Royal domain, proceeded to execute the Convent Law, by simultaneously presenting themselves in all the establishments and monasteries of the suppressed orders. The inmates of several convents refused to open the gates, and some of them even rang the alarm bell.

The provisions of the law were enforced with moderation. The Ecclesiastical Board caused the gates of the Dominican Convents of St. James, St. Philip, and St. Sebastian to be opened by force.

TURKEY.

THE following is the autograph letter addressed by the Sultan to the late Lord Raglan, thanking him for the services of the English army. An autograph letter of a similar tenor was addressed at the same time to General Pelissier:

TO LORD RAGLAN.

“My Lord.—The Queen, my august and intimate ally, has sent you to defend my cause, which, being a just and legitimate one, becomes the cause of the whole civilised world. You, and the brave army which you command, have responded to the expectations of your country and of mine. You have deserved general admiration by your glorious exploits in a trying climate. The new feats of arms you have just added to the many brilliant actions performed in the Crimea, together with my soldiers, whom I love as my own children, give me the hope of a definite and proximate result, which will be as glorious for these great allied nations as the commencement of the campaign. I experience a feeling of high satisfaction that a thing so terrible as war should have been the means of uniting my people with the great nations of the west by indissoluble bonds. As long as the noble thirst for glory shall make the human heart beat, those who have struggled with fraternal emulation, those who have mixed their blood together on a foreign soil, will remember compatriots whom they regard as brothers. What has hitherto been the scourge of mankind will have procured the

satisfactory result of bringing nearer to each other the people whose Governments were already Allies; this war will bear the germ of a durable peace, rich in wholesome fruit, between nations who desire to appreciate one another. Being desirous to offer to the brave combatants in the Crimea a proof of my lively satisfaction, a public testimony of my gratitude, I have charged my Aide-de-Camp, General Ethan Pacha, to bring you this letter. I flattered myself with the hope, my Lord, that all the brave officers and soldiers under your orders will be convinced that we make no distinction between any of the soldiers fighting for the common cause, and that the affection I feel for them finds an echo in the heart of the whole population of Turkey, which rejoices to recognise in them the most ancient Allies of my empire. I pray God to give you the most glorious success and to have you in His holy keeping.

—Palace of Tchéragan, the 12th Schewal, 1271.

UNITED STATES.

In political circles the Spanish question, which had been revived in the State Department by a speech of Mr. Jefferson Davis in Mississippi, was the all-engrossing one. This gentleman is stated to have observed that he would on the first pretext raise the standard of the United States in Cuba, and to have expressed an opinion, that while all the Powers of Europe were at war was the moment for the work.

Several Germans had published a petition to the President, in which they state that they were enticed away by British recruiting agents to Nova Scotia, under pretence of obtaining work; when they arrived there, that an offer was made them to enlist in the Foreign Legion destined to serve in the Crimea, and, upon giving a refusal, they were imprisoned under military control at Melville Island, where they are now deprived of their liberty. They asked the intervention of the Executive, as many of them have families in New York.

The prohibitory liquor law came into operation on the 4th inst. The effect of it, from a clause in the bill, was that, instead of being an act of absolute prohibition of the retail liquor business, it was an act of absolute free trade.

The prosperous mining town of Auburn had been almost entirely swept away by fire. The loss was estimated at £250,000. A fire had also occurred at San Francisco, which destroyed property to the amount of 45,000 dols.

The mines are reported as yielding plenty of gold to the diggers in every part of the State, and all classes of mines are doing better than ever before done in any period. In California, business was far from being brisk or prosperous, but, in consequence of the reported prosperity of the mines, a better feeling prevailed among the merchants.

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

THE BREVET-SYSTEM.

The fact that the system of brevets has no existence in any other European army than our own, would of itself be sufficient to suggest inquiry as to its soundness and practical working, since, whatever may be the unquestioned excellence of most of our other institutions, we can hardly deny the palm of superiority in military organisation to, probably, either France or Austria, to say nothing of the remaining two of the great powers. In the grand elements of courage and power of endurance, our soldiers may, and do, stand alone; but short as has been the present war, yet it has revealed our administrative inferiority throughout every branch of the army. Talking, a day or two ago, with a French officer, this very subject of brevet promotion came under remark. Amongst regimental officers on service, however, the whole thing is perfectly understood, since the great hardship and injustice resulting from it to the majority make it to their intellects "simple as good day." An infantry regiment on service is made up of eight companies, with a captain each; of these last, one at least is usually employed on the staff, two more may be set aside as the average of sick or wounded, leaving five for regimental duty. A brevet takes place, and, for some real or reported meritorious action, or quite as often through favouritism, two of these five are promoted to brevet majorities, and cease at once to do trench duty with their companies. Three captains have thus thrown upon them the work of eight; for, though the fortunate beneficiaries by the brevet may remain with the regiment, they are entered on the roster of field officers, and henceforth enjoy a most anomalous exemption from the most laborious of their previous duties. In a protracted and toilsome siege like the present, the hardship resulting to the remaining triad of captains is peculiarly great. A regiment, for example, is ordered to supply say two hundred men for the trenches, requiring for this number two out of the three; on the following night, a second draft of half the previous strength is needed, and the third captain goes with them for a like term of 24 hours. The third night brings a similar call as on the first, and the two unfortunates, who were on duty with their companies then, go through the same round of hardship and danger again. This is no exaggeration of the share of trench duty which falls on an average to the officers and men in the regiments of every one of our divisions who have been so employed. There remains, however, a greater objection still—namely, the difficulty of making a perfectly fair selection for brevet promotion from amongst the various captains and field-officers of a regiment, and the consequent opening which is thus given for the practice of favouritism. No system of promotion is sound in principle which does not reduce the possibility of this last to a minimum, and take actual merit and professional ability as the sole entitling qualification for its rewards. That brevets, as they now operate, do neither, is matter of notoriety throughout the army. Recent discussions in Parliament have brought to light more than one shameful illustration of this fact; and there are few regiments now in the Crimea whose history within even the last eighteen months could not furnish more.

PERSONAL INJUSTICE OF THE SYSTEM.

Illustrative cases of personal injustice are very numerous. Take the instance of a brevet major—say of the experience and mental calibre of a gentleman who deprived the Russian of his ear—who, after a very short command of a company, gets promoted, and almost immediately after goes through a general action. For this last he becomes brevet lieutenant-colonel, serves six years, gets his full colonelcy, goes on half-pay, and in due course attains the rank of general, without having ever commanded anything but a company. Out of such raw material thus poorly worked into shape, what sort of generals can we expect? The history of the present siege furnishes a sufficient reply. And here another defect in a different direction comes into view. A lieutenant-colonel, whatever his proved ability for command, cannot benefit by a brevet till after at least three years' service in that capacity. He may have held lengthened command of a company as captain, had further experience of service as major, and yet, however great be the evidence of first-rate talent for superior command which he displays after attaining his lieutenant-colonelcy, he must hang on for a minimum period of three years before his abilities can be turned to account in a higher grade of the service. It is well known, that in no other rank is man's fitness for command so speedily and thoroughly tested as in that of lieutenant-colonel of a regiment, and yet, be the exigencies of the service what they may, a man who, say at the end of a year's probation in that rank, has proved himself to be possessed of all the elements of a good general, must remain in his subordinate position for twice the same period longer, whilst incapable superiors are working mischief on every hand. Efficient lieutenant-colonels are thus shut out from vacancies for the discharge of whose duties they may be in the highest degree qualified, whilst imbeciles who accidentally rank a step above them, assume commands which bring both disgrace and detriment to the service generally. An instance illustrative of the former half of this remarkable lately in the second brigade of the Light Division. After the death of Colonel Yea, of the 7th Fusiliers, in the affair of the 18th before the Redan, Colonel Lyons became senior lieutenant-colonel of his brigade, and accordingly assumed command of it a few days later, when illness compelled General Codrington to take temporary refuge from his duties on board ship. Colonel Lyons has the reputation of being one of the ablest and most efficient officers in the Division; but, notwithstanding all this, he was very speedily superseded by an unemployed full colonel of another division, who had only arrived within a few days previously in the Crimea. Thus an officer of great and admitted ability, and who had served with his regiment from the first, was removed, to make way for an entirely new comer, whose only known qualification was the fortunate possession of a step ahead of the other.

THE REMEDY—ORDER OF MERIT.

As a favourite measure with very many of our oldest and best officers, it may be worth while to sketch briefly the outline of a system of rewards bearing this name, and providing for nearly every possible phase of merit for the display of which the army offers an opportunity. The order, then, which should thus supersede brevets might be of three classes: the badge of the third, or lowest of these, might be given both to officers and men for any act of distinguished bravery, or, in time of peace, to non-commissioned officers and privates for marked good conduct; the second class might include those who had performed some still more notable and important service, or who, after having received the former, repeated similar deeds of courage to those which had gained them the lowest grade; whilst the first or highest rank in the order might be conferred on general officers of long or generally distinguished services, or on either officer or private who performed some transcendent act of heroism or other service of the highest public value.

REDAN AND MALAKHOFF—DEFEAT OF THE 18TH.

We hammer away, spasmodically, at the everlasting Redan, which returns quite as good as it gets; or help our neighbours, the French, by practising on the equally retributive Malakhoff—in either case without making the smallest measure of headway towards the Russian Troy beyond. As the moon, however, has now reached her last quarter, the garrison takes increasing advantage of the darkness to attempt nightly mischief against both our own and the French lines. On the evening of the 8th rather a brisk affair took place between the latter and a strong party of the enemy, who sallied from the Malakhoff to essay the destruction of the French approaches towards that redoubt. It will be remembered that our Allies, soon after their own and our defeat on the memorable 18th, commenced a sap from the Mamelon to its *vis-à-vis* the Malakhoff. As this work has been prosecuted with more or less success every night, it has at present penetrated over half the distance between the two redoubts, and at its further extremity is within some 350 yards of the Russian embrasures. To stop its further advance, therefore, the enemy made a strong sortie on Sunday night, but after a sharp fight were driven back into their own works with considerable loss; the attempt was repeated soon after, but was again repulsed after another determined struggle. During this second scuffle, occurred another grand illustration of what an untravelled Milesian would call that "most beautiful" system of blundering, in which there seems to be an understood rivalry between our Allies and ourselves. After the affair of the 18th, our artillerymen in the 21-gun and other neighbouring batteries had received orders to train their guns at night on the approaches to the Quarries on the one hand, and on the space between the Mamelon and Malakhoff on the other—in this last case without the smallest arrangement for signals with the French. Accordingly, on Sunday night, the 8th inst., when a strong force of French deployed out from the Mamelon to support those who were already engaged in repelling the enemy, our 21-gun battery opened fire on them, and kept it up most effectively till a breathless messenger arrived to give notice of the murderous mistake. The well-timed blunder afforded the enemy most valuable aid, and had it been much longer continued would have resulted in the repulse of our Allies, and the destruction of their hard-worked sap. That such an error could arise is about equally the fault of ourselves and the sufferers; for the arrangement of some system of signals to distinguish a friendly from a hostile party, on ground on which it was mutually understood that our guns should be prepared to play at night, seems so much a matter of course, that the rawest recruit that ever joined a marching regiment would have thought of it as a first step in the plan. With such generalship, what armies could succeed?

THE FIRE RE-OPENED BY THE RUSSIANS.

The following despatch is from General Pelissier, dated July 23, 11 a.m.—

The enemy appears to have taken alarm last night, and opened a very brisk fire on the right and left of our lines of attack. Our batteries replied as briskly, and with success.

I have good news from Yenikale. Everything there is going on well, under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Osmont, who has taken measures to prevent any disorder at Kertch.

THE TURKISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

THE POSITION OF THE ALLIED CAMP.

On July 9, the Turkish army took up their position on the heights above Kamara. By this movement the Allied camp is extended in one succession down to Baidar, for, when the Turks left that neighbourhood the other day, several regiments of French cavalry and infantry took their place, so that now they form the advanced post in that direction. Where the French cease, the Turkish encampment begins, and extends back to the Sardinian line.

THE RUSSIANS AND TURKS FELLING TIMBER FOR HUTS.

In the direction of Tehorgoun the Russians have again pushed forward their outposts to the Tchernaya, and their videttes occupy the plateau immediately above the village. They have destroyed the bridge constructed by the Turks across the river, and parties of them daily come down to fell timber and carry it off, as well as the beams and rafters which still remain in some of the ruined houses. Thus there seems to be one universal hutting mania, for the Turks have likewise, during their stay in the valley, cut a good deal of timber for the same purpose. It is a wise precaution, but a rather saddening symptom.

FAVOURABLE REPORT FROM THE SEA OF AZOF.

Colonel Ogilvie, commanding a Turkish brigade at Yenikale, returned a few days ago, on account of his health, from the Sea of Azof. According to his account, things are going on pretty smoothly there. The fortifications are assuming daily a more reassuring character. The *Sphinx*, Captain Willmot, and the little gunboats, are daily searching after Russian vessels and stores in the Sea of Azof. Abuses are checked, and order is re-established. Most of the Greek and Russian inhabitants have quitted, and the Tartars have seized the opportunity to possess themselves of their lands. The Russians are fortifying the isthmus of Arabat. The Circassians are said to have returned to Anapa.

SEA-BATHING—REVIVING A DROWNING MAN.

From the position occupied by the head-quarters of the Turkish troops, there is a beautiful view of the sea, and of the shipping in the roadstead of Balaklava. Notwithstanding the abruptness of the cliffs towards the sea, there is a small strip of beach just there, so that even the opportunity for sea-bathing is not wanting; but for all those who cannot swim it is rather a dangerous temptation, for after a few yards the beach ceases quite suddenly, as if the cliffs, interrupted for a short distance by the beach, were continued again under the sea. When the Turks retired the other day from Baidar, some troops were left at this point. Some of them asked for permission to bathe, which was granted. One of those who could not swim went beyond his depth, and was sinking; his comrade, who could swim, sprang in after him, and, foolishly enough, gave him one of his hands to seize hold of; the consequence was, that he was unable to do anything, and both were on the point of being drowned when two others came to their rescue, and dragged them out by means of ropes which they had fortunately brought down with them. But the most remarkable part of the business was the manner in which the Turkish doctor tried to revive the man who had fallen in first, and who was unconscious. He gave orders to turn him upside down, and keep his legs in the air, which would very likely have finished the poor man. Fortunately, the commanding officer interfered, so the man, instead of being turned upside down, was rolled along the ground, which, somehow or other, did revive him.

THE FRENCH MODE OF CARRYING THE SICK ADOPTED BY THE TURKS.

It is a pity that all the surgeons sent out from England are employed in the hospitals at Varna, Eupatoria, and Balaklava, and none have been attached to the army which is in the field, for there they are most wanted. But if we have no English surgeons at present in the camp except Dr. Fuller, attached to head-quarters, we have ambulance mules, with chairs and beds in the French fashion. It is the first time Turkish soldiers have seen anything like them, and, of course, they have not the slightest idea of using them. When the Turks came back from Baidar, a few days ago, some of the sick were conveyed on this newly-adopted ambulance. Those who were placed on the chairs were all right, but the greater part of those

who were transported on these portable beds were shockingly ill-treated through the ignorance of the soldiers. Only very few of these latter seem to have known how to stretch these beds, so that they were only half opened, and the poor fellows were crouched down, with their knees touching their chins, in a space of about two feet square. At every false step which the mule made they were knocked against the iron framework, and in danger of being thrown out.

THE PICKLENESS OF THE TURKISH ARMY.

The Turks have taken provisions for a week for their new encampment on the heights, but this is by no means a reason for supposing that they will stay there for a week. Astronomers are able to calculate the movements of comets and foretell their appearance and disappearance, but no calculator should try to speculate on the movements of the Turkish army. The only steady feature hitherto detected is, that the Turkish army moves always the day before the post starts. Droll as this may appear, it is nevertheless certain; it started from Tehorgoun to Baidar the day before the post; it came back thence the day before the post; and the new position was taken up likewise on the 9th instant, that is, the day before the post.

DESPATCHES FROM THE BLACK SEA.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, were received at the Admiralty on Tuesday last:

Royal Albert, off Sebastopol, July 10.

Their Lordships will have great pleasure in learning that Commander Osborne, of the *Vesuvius*, mentions in favourable terms a letter he had received from Lieutenant W. N. W. Hewett, the Commander of the *Beagle*, reporting the destruction of the floating bridge in the Straits of Genetchi.

I have now the honour to enclose a copy of that letter, and to draw their Lordships' attention to the excellent arrangements made by Lieutenant Hewett, as well as to the gallant and able way in which his orders were executed by Mr. Martin Tracey, midshipman of the *Vesuvius*, Mr. John Hayles, acting gunner of the *Beagle*, and the boats' crews, of whom Joseph Trewavas, ordinary seaman, lent from the *Agamemnon*, was wounded, and is particularly mentioned as having cut the hawsers.

EDMUND LYONS, Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

Beagle, off the town of Genetchi, July 4.

I have the honour to inform you that on my arrival off this place, I immediately proceeded to minutely examine the communication between the town and Arabat Spit, and, on so doing, found it to be by means of a ferry of two large flats and hawsers, which I determined to destroy, if possible.

Accordingly, on the forenoon of yesterday I despatched my gig, under Mr. John Hayles, acting-gunner of this ship, and paddle-box boat, under Mr. Martin Tracey, midshipman of the *Vesuvius*.

I have much pleasure in reporting that they succeeded entirely in destroying it by cutting the hawsers and casting the boats adrift, which was done under a very heavy fire of musketry at about 80 yards, the troops completely lining the beach, and the adjacent houses being filled with riflemen.

Great credit is due to Mr. Hayles for his activity and zeal in destroying the same, and to Mr. Martin Tracey for the effectual fire he kept up in covering his retreat, the firing from the ship and paddle-box-boat at the same time causing great confusion and loss among the enemy, as they retired from their exposed position.

Mr. Hayles speaks in the highest terms of the boat's crew, especially of Joseph Trewavas, ordinary seaman, lent from the *Agamemnon*, who cut the hawsers.

W. N. W. HEWETT, Lieutenant Commanding.

THE SIEGE OF KARS.

The intelligence from Kars up to the 23rd ult., states that the whole Russian army, calculated at 35,000, appeared in full march, preceded by a large cavalry force, and followed by miles of baggage wagons and camp followers. Ere yet they came within range of the Turks' heavy ordnance they gradually turned southwards and then westwards, the Turks watching with intense interest each movement, twice "slewing" round their 24-pounders towards the moving host. When the enemy had marched several hours towards the west, they took up a position about three miles from the Turkish forces, on a slope of a mountain, and before they had pitched their tents a heavy shower of rain came on, which continued during the whole of that night.

Mustapha Pacha, the commander of the Batoum army, writes to the Turkish General, telling him that he has only 3,500 troops under him, that he is menaced by a vastly superior force of Russians, and therefore is quite unable to send reinforcements, but that he is doing his best to send irregulars.

Six hundred Lazi mountaineers had entered the town with banners of their own, singing their patriotic songs. These are excellent riflemen, and worth much more than regular troops to fight behind intrenchments. The enemy are unroofing all the villages around for the sake of the firewood.

According to the latest accounts received, the Russians had commenced the siege of Kars, where the Turkish force only amounted to 18,000 men. A reinforcement of 20,000 men is to be immediately sent thither. The Pacha of Trebizond had ordered a levy *en masse*, in order to assist Kars, but the Christian population are said to have refused, or at least to have set conditions to their co-operation.

THE RUSSIAN QUESTION.—It has been whispered that the following scheme for an eventual settlement of the Eastern question is seriously under consideration. The cession of the Crimea by Russia to be made a fifth point—the Crimea to be restored to Turkey as a compensation for the Principalities, which would be annexed to Austria in consideration of Lombardy being given up to Piedmont. Thus Russia would be humbled and weakened, Turkey supported, Italy ameliorated, Austria contented, and France and England gloriously satisfied.

A SCENE IN THE CRIMEA.—Two young officers in her Majesty's army, lately stretched on a bed of sickness under the same canvas, pledged themselves that, in case either should be restored to health, a sum of £10 should be remitted home for charitable purposes. One of the youths died; and the survivor has fulfilled his benevolent intention, and remitted the sum as a thankoffering for his restoration to health.

A PRIZE OF WAR.—General Pelissier has just presented to the library of Algiers a volume of the "History of the Life of Christ," which was taken in the chapel of the cemetery of Sebastopol. It is in the Slavonian language.

STORES FOR THE CRIMEA.—The officials in the Ordnance stores, Tower, have been more than usually busy in delivering stores. The pressure of orders has made it necessary to engage upwards of 150 extra labourers, and every available man belonging to the garrison is constantly employed. Two thousand stand of Minie rifles, 700 carbines, a large number of sabres and accoutrements, were forwarded to Woolwich for conveyance to the Crimea; 800 Minie rifles and accoutrements were sent direct from the London Docks to Constantinople for the use of the Polish Legion, and a large supply of round shot, grape, canister, and howitzer shells, were sent to the same place for the service of the Artillery of the Turkish contingent.

THE LATE SIR JOHN CAMPBELL'S SWORD.—On an application made to the Russians, the sword of Sir John Campbell, an old family claymore, has been brought to the English camp by a flag of truce. At the same time it was announced that the body of the general had been buried in the town with proper military honours.—Letter from the Camp.

STRANGE USE OF A MOTHER'S LETTERS.—"I don't want to see any more crying letters come to the Crimea from you. Those that I have received I have put into my rifle after loading it, and have fired them at the Russians, because you appear to have a strong dislike to them. If you had seen as many killed as I have, you would not have as many weak ideas as you have; besides being present when the shot, shell, and musketry, were flying past, and ringing around you, bursting and killing hundreds on your right hand and on your left, and yourself kept firing until the sweat streamed from you."—Letter from a Guardsman.

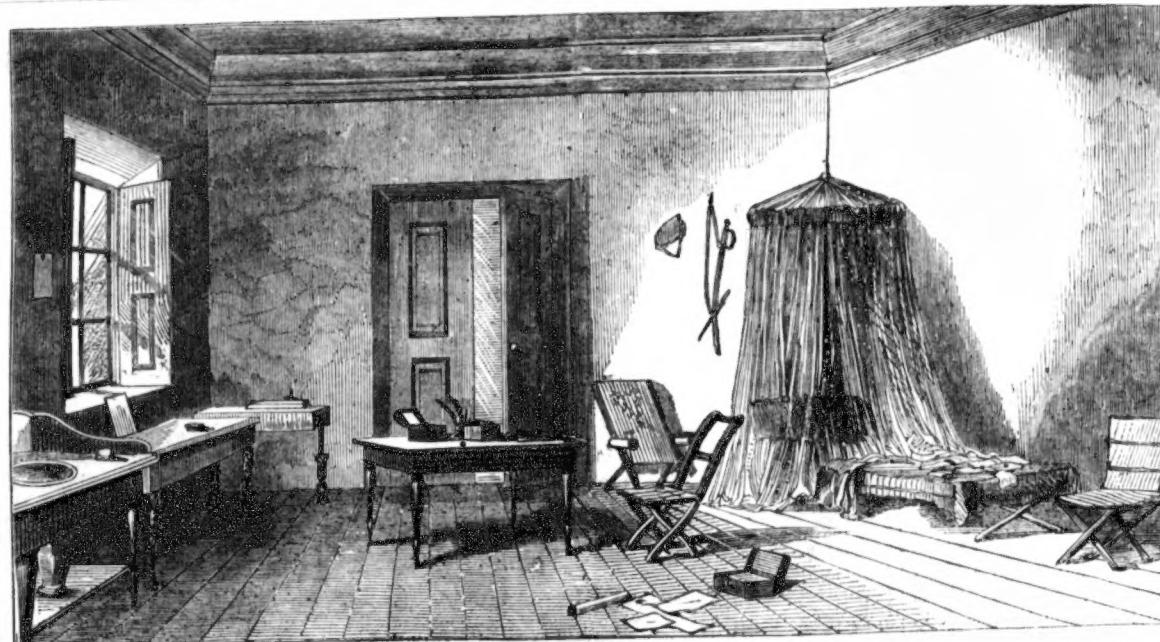
RUSSIAN SUPPLIES.—It is stated that Russian officers, accompanied by mercantile agents, had been seen at Cologne several times of late, the object of their visits being to contract with the manufacturers for the delivery of so much powder and lead. It is added that the quantity of each of these materials to be delivered is very great, and that the manufacturers have concluded the contracts upon terms highly advantageous to themselves.

LORD RAGLAN'S REMAINS.

HIS LAST MOMENTS.

In a large plain, white-washed apartment, of the Traktic Inn, with a very cheerful aspect, the two windows in front looking out on a long garden bounded by the Zouave camp, stretching for miles in the distance, Lord Raglan laid himself down to await the advent of the Great Destroyer. In consequence of the veteran Field Marshal having only one hand, he never would allow any one to touch his papers, but arranged them while in bed, having always one despatch-box on the ground near him; and two on his writing-table. His bed was defended by a peculiar curtain against the disagreeable irruption of mosquitoes; his hat and sword hung by his bed-side; and everything in the room was arranged with that systematic precision, characteristic of the favourite pupil of the conqueror of Waterloo.

Towards evening on the day when Lord Raglan breathed his last, when his staff were about to sally forth for their usual ride, they were informed that he was much worse; they immediately repaired to the place where he was lying—as represented in our illustration. He seemed somewhat surprised at seeing them all, and inquired the reason. They stated as delicately as they could, the cause of their coming; and he assured them with a



THE ROOM IN WHICH LORD RAGLAN DIED.—(SKETCHED BY JULIAN PORTCH.)

most amiable smile, that they were mistaken, that he was much better, and that, in a day or two, he would be among them again. With a feeling of relief, they left the dying warrior's couch, and went for their usual ride. He afterwards raised himself on his bed, and called twice or thrice "Frank, Frank,"—meaning Lord Burghersh,—turned round, and expired, with a calm, serene, and beautiful expression on his face.

EMBARKATION OF THE BODY.

The funeral procession of the late Lord Raglan, moved from headquarters to Kazatch Bay at 4 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 3rd of July.

The Brigade of Guards furnished a guard of honour of 100 men with regimental colour at head-quarters. Detachments of 50 men in review order, with one field officer, one captain, and one subaltern from each regiment, lined the road from the British to the French head-quarters.

The troops not on duty were under arms at 4 o'clock p.m., and remained in camp under the command of a Brigadier-General of each division, with whom there were one Major of Brigade and one divisional staff officer.

Those who took place in the procession, were relatives and friends of the late Field Marshal, general officers of divisions with their staffs, staff at head-quarters; one officers from each

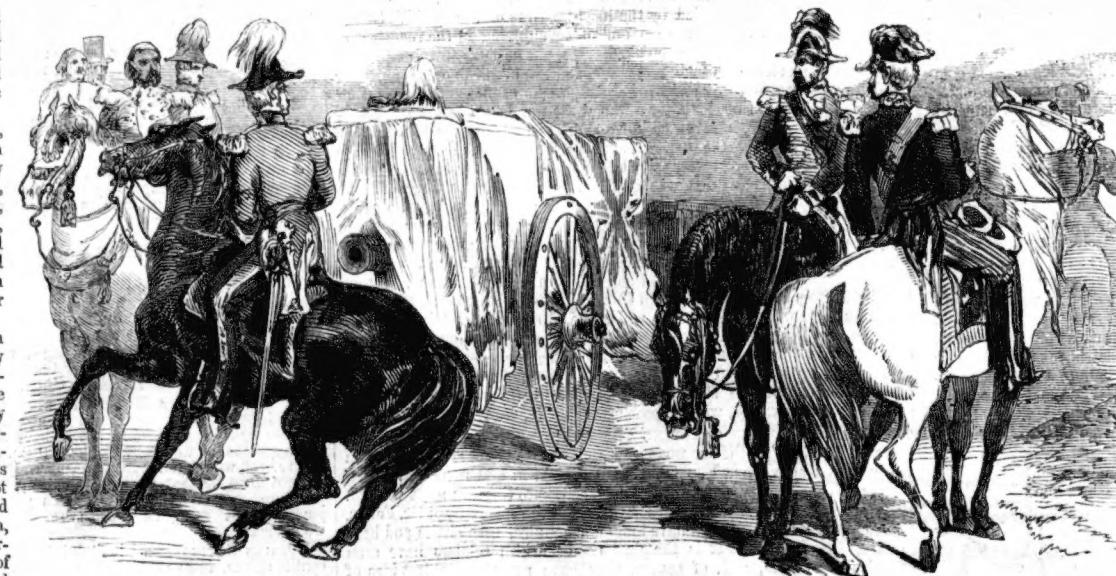


DEPARTURE OF THE FUNERAL PROCESSION FROM THE LATE LORD RAGLAN'S QUARTERS.—(SKETCHED BY JULIAN PORTCH.)

regiment of infantry and cavalry and from the Royal Engineers and Land Transports Corps, two from the Naval Brigade, Royal Marines, Medical and Commissariat Staff, and three from the Royal Artillery.

The hearse was a kind of platform, erected on a gun-carriage. The coffin was placed aloft; the pall hung very imposingly over the cannon's mouth, which just peeped out; the English flag, conjuring up a host of associations, waved over the pall, on which appeared the hat and sword of the deceased warrior; and the carriage was drawn by six artillery horses, attended by their drivers.

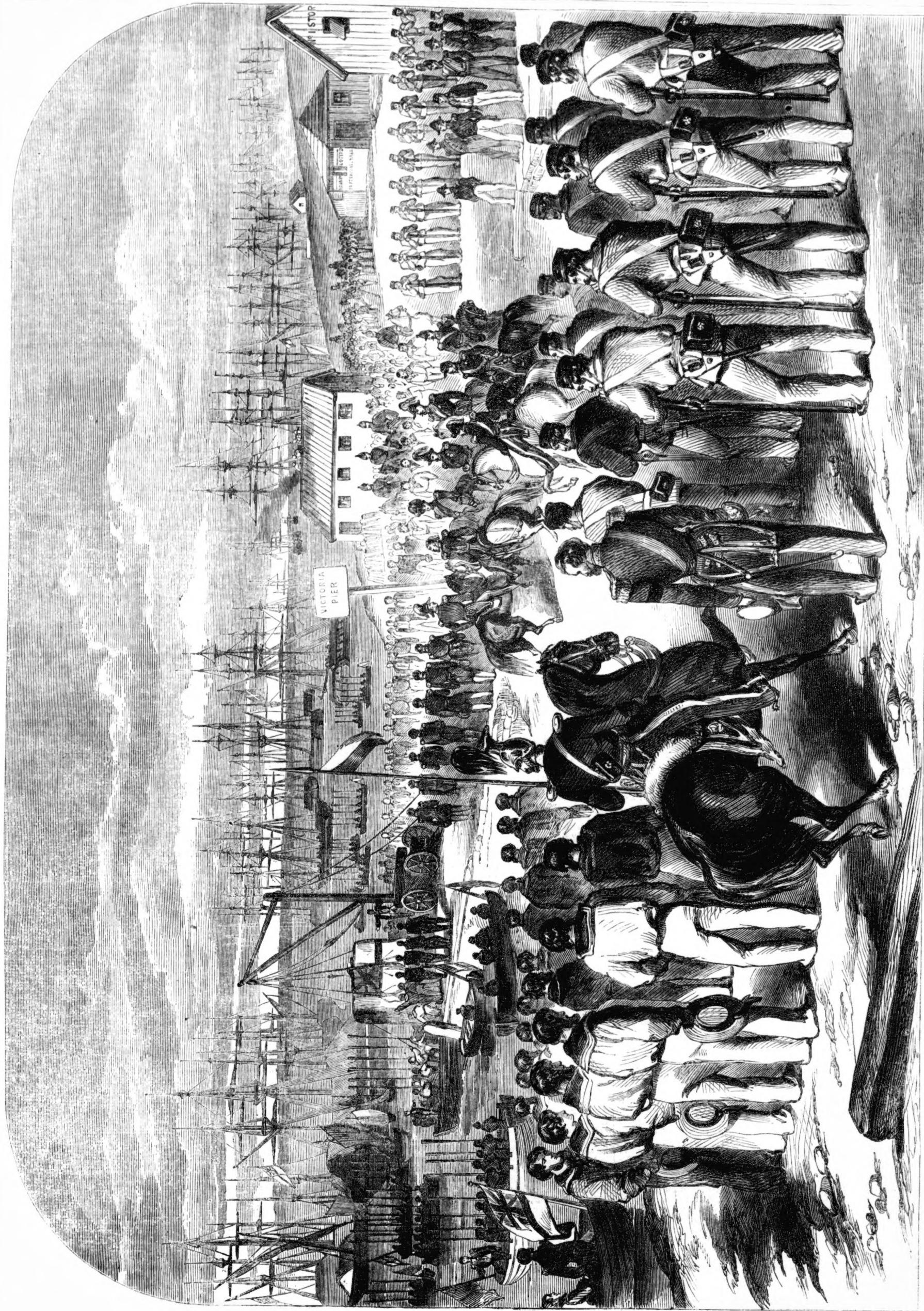
The embarkation of the body on board the launch, that was to convey it to the *Caradoc*, which was lying outside the harbour, took place at the Victoria Pier, at seven o'clock, on a July evening. Generals Pellissier and Canrobert figured conspicuously in the mournful procession. In the foreground, was a regiment of Lancers; and, at the foot of the pier, were the chiefs of the Allied army—General Simpson, Omar Pacha, Sir Colin Campbell, General de la Marmora, the Sardinian, in his uniform of bluish gray, and General Pell, attended by their aides-de-camp, and numerous



THE FUNERAL CAR, ATTENDED BY THE GENERALS OF THE ALLIED ARMIES.—(SKETCHED BY JULIAN PORTCH.)

suites; while, on the pile of wood, stood Admiral Stewart. Behind the row of sailors, on the other side of the pier, appeared a body of the Crimean mounted police, and behind them, a motley crowd of spectators, on foot and on horse-back. The pier was lined, on both sides, by naval officers, whose rank, continued for some distance by sailors from the various men-of-war, was extended along the route taken by the procession, by a body of marines. Boats of various descriptions, from the French and English fleets, fully manned, accompanied by their respective officers, with flags displayed, and oars upraised in token of respect, covered the waters of the Bay. Guns and cannon boomed from the commanding hill-tops. The marines fired several volleys; the bands played the "dead march" in "Saul," and other appropriate dirges; muffled drums were heard, and the coffin containing the warrior's remains, by means of a crane, was lowered into the boat. The *Caradoc* lay ready to receive the remains of the military hero, who had so resolutely sacrificed fame to duty; and the corpse of the illustrious dead was put on board, to be conveyed to England.

About eight in the evening, those who had taken part in the imposing



EMBARKATION OF THE BODY OF LORD RAGLAN AT VICTORIA PIER, KAZATCH BAY.—(SKETCHED BY JULIAN FORTESCUE.)

ceremony, returned to their various quarters; but alas! how true it is, that no man, however eminent, is seriously missed by his fellows! The officers, without any particular display of sorrow, took their way homewards. They galloped and raced, in playful rivalry with their French *confrères*, and these again with their Turkish *compêtres*—all going at full speed, with the incite prospect of obtaining some grog at Kamiesch.

The *Caradoc*, bearing the mortal remains of the late Commander-in-Chief, arrived safely in Cumberland basin, Bristol, on Tuesday, shortly after one o'clock. She was tugged up the river Avon from Kingroad by the *Atlas* steamer, the sharp turnings of the channel rendering it rather dangerous for her to proceed alone. Captain Price, the principal naval officer there, with the present Lord Raglan, Colonel Bagot, and Colonel Kingscote, went on board on the way up, and the final arrangements connected with the funeral were rapidly made. It was first proposed that the body should be conveyed along the floating harbour to Quay Head, Prince's Street, in the *Star* steamer, the width of the lock not permitting the *Caradoc* herself to enter. That plan, however, was considerably modified, it being considered better in every way that the launch of the *Caradoc* should be used instead. The boat procession was made much more imposing by the change.

The delay in the arrival of the *Caradoc* has been due to the state of the ship's bottom, and the accumulation of filth upon it, contracted chiefly in Balaklava harbour. She has been compelled on her way here to touch at Malaga, Gibraltar, and Vigo for coals, of which she is able to carry only a very limited supply. Abreast of Ushant very thick foggy weather was encountered, which did not clear off until the Land's End was reached. It rained heavily as the *Caradoc* took up her station in Cumberland basin, but nevertheless several thousands of spectators were present to witness the arrival.

The body of the late Field-Marshal is enclosed in no less than three coffins, of which one is of lead. That prepared by Messrs. Hooper, who have the management of the funeral at Bristol, makes the fourth.

[Next week we shall give full particulars of the disembarkation of the body of the deceased General, with an account of the funeral at Badminton, accompanied by numerous sketches of the chief incidents of the ceremony, taken on the spot.]

THE BALTIC FLEET.

On the evening of the 9th, a boat attempted to pass up to St. Petersburg, but was stopped and captured by the *Peller* gunboat, which was in her turn chased by three Russian gunboats, and only escaped by her superior speed, in doing which, however, she swamped the captured boat she had in tow, out of which she had fortunately taken the prisoners. They were fishermen going to market with their fish; they all tell the same sad tale of the wretchedness and distress of the people along the coast.

On the 11th, all the gunboats were exercised, and went through a variety of evolutions, such as forming in columns of two, three, or four deep, advancing in line, abreast, &c.; nearly all have had an extra 32-pounder gun put into them, which they carry remarkably well. In the afternoon a flag of truce came from Cronstadt with despatches for the Commander-in-Chief.

On the 12th, several boats were captured by the *Bulldog* and *Redwing*, all containing three or four men and women, appeared to be rather pleased by being captured than otherwise, being sure of getting a good meal of beef or pork.

On the 13th, the *Princess Alice* proceeded towards Cronstadt with a flag of truce and a despatch for the Minister of Marine. A boat met her out of gunshot of the forts, which having received the despatch, returned to Cronstadt, and the *Princess Alice* returned to the fleet. One of the officers on board the Russian steamer said, that one of the shot thrown the other day from Commander Boyd's gun penetrated more than six feet into the earthwork of their battery.

The following letter from Captain Yelverton was enclosed in a despatch received from Admiral Dundas:

Her Majesty's ship *Arrogant*, off Wiborg, July 14.

The *Magicienne* rejoined me on Wednesday, and I proceeded direct to Kounda Bay, on the south coast, where I had reason to think that troops were concentrated. It turned out to be a large Cossack encampment, on a most commanding position, whence I dislodged them with shell and rockets from the *Ruby* and ships' boats. Some opposition was made to our landing, and shots fired from behind hedges, &c.; but I succeeded in examining the place, which I did not injure, as it only contained private property.

The following morning I anchored at the mouth of the river Portsoiki, and, landing on its right bank, destroyed a Cossack barrack and stables, driving the soldiers into the country. I then came on here.

Having opened the bay called Trangsund, we saw a Russian man-of-war steamer, with two large gunboats in tow, not far off; this most novel and unexpected sight of a Russian man-of-war for once clear of a stone wall, and to all appearance inclined to give us a fair and honest fight, created the greatest enthusiasm among the men and officers.

I directed Mr. Hale, commanding the *Ruby*, to open fire on her at once, but she very soon retired out of range, having, I think, received some damage. We had now reached the entrance of the Sound; Wiborg was in sight, and a fair prospect of attacking three large gunboats, lying with another steamer under an island about one mile off. We were here brought up by a barrier, impeding the passage of the gunboat and launches.

At this moment a masked battery on the left bank, not more than 350 yards off, opened on us a heavy fire of musketry, round and grape; this was instantly returned and kept in check by a rapid and well-directed fire from the *Ruby* and all the boats. The enemy's steamer and gunboats then came from under the island and also opened fire on us.

As it was impossible to get the *Ruby* through the barrier, I returned towards Stralsund, the enemy's riflemen following us along the banks, but driven from their positions as fast as they took them by the fire from the *Ruby* and boats.

An explosion took place in one of the *Arrogant's* cutters, which swamped the boat; the men were saved, but I regret to say that Mr. Story, the midshipman in command of her, was killed.

In endeavouring to save the crew, the boat drifted close to the battery, and would have fallen into the hands of the enemy had not Lieutenant Haggard, of this ship, and Lieutenant Dowell, R.M.A., of the *Magicienne*, in the *Ruby's* gig, with a volunteer crew, towed her out under a very heavy fire.

H. R. YELVERTON, Captain.

THE LATE HYDE PARK RIOTS AND THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICE.

As the case on the part of the individuals who were assaulted by the police at the recent Sunday demonstration in Hyde Park, has now come to a close before the commissioners appointed to conduct the inquiry, we give below a condensed report of the evidence. As a matter of order, and to avoid repetition, we shall arrange the most important evidence under several specific headings.

THE CAUSE OF THE FIRST ONSLAUGHT BY THE POLICE.

Mr. Utting, a newspaper reporter, said—Walked from the Receiving House. Saw a body of police near the fountain. Everybody was as quiet as possible. There were no cries until after the disturbance commenced. Some boys found a dead eel, and began throwing it about. It fell near 430 A, who seized it, and refused to give it up. He collared the eel. The inspector ordered him to take it to the magazine. He went with about 12 other policemen to do so. A lot of boys followed, wanting to get back the eel; the police refused; one boy threw a clod, and struck a policeman in the face. The police then drew their truncheons, and began to strike about them. The police lodged the eel in the barrack, and came back amidst general hooting. Directly they got back, all the police were summoned from the different parts where they were lying down. Two superintendents rode up, and their first onslaught was made,

Saw the superintendents raise their hands, and call out, "Clear the footpath." The police formed a semicircle. A great many people were struck. In about five minutes the police made another charge, and struck about them.

THE INSPECTOR ON A CHESTNUT HORSE.

Mr. James Frazer Galbraith, of 177, Piccadilly, J.P., who had himself been a Commissioner of police in Glasgow, said, a body of police charged down from the receiving-house, striking at everybody. An inspector on a chestnut-horse was hounding them on, and appeared annoyed that the men were not violent enough.

Another witness tells us that a stoutish man, sallow faced, without whiskers, on a chestnut-horse, pointed with his finger into the crowd, and said, "Seize that man," or words to that effect; a number of police rushed across the road, to carry out these orders, but not knowing the man, the superintendent again pointed him out. When he found the policemen were coming, the man stood back, and asked what they wanted, as he had done nothing? They made him no answer, but rushed at him, and knocked him down with their truncheons.

Mr. J. Ingram Lockhart, late candidate for Northampton, said he saw 80 policemen pass, with their hands under their coat tails. By their side was a mounted inspector or superintendent, who used such expressions as "—your blood, why don't you rush in and pull them out!" The police on several occasions declined to obey the orders, and appeared to be disgusted with the orders so given. He saw several persons taken into custody, some with their heads bleeding.

A servant in a coffee-house was in the Park on the 1st of July. Saw two policemen on horseback, one of whom, on a chestnut horse, she distinctly heard use the words, "Use your staves, men!" The police then made a charge, and knocked the people down, without giving them a chance of getting away.

Mr. C. Utting stated that Superintendent Hughes, the superintendent above alluded to as being mounted on a chestnut horse, rode up like a madman to one particular spot, where there were a number of fashionably dressed ladies standing, and raising himself in his stirrups, leant over the horse's head, and with a long riding-whip he struck right and left, striking several of the ladies. The people were indignant at his conduct, and cried out "to pull him off his horse, and throw him into the river." His face was distorted with rage.

A licensed victualler said he saw Inspector Hughes; he appeared raving mad. He charged amongst the people, striking with his whip. The cries of the women and children were dreadful. There were four soldiers there. Inspector Hughes waved his hand, and the police then charged the people. He has had no dispute with Mr. Hughes. Had occasion to go to him to report a drunken man, but Mr. Hughes treated him very civilly. Heard some people say they wished they had a gun to shoot Hughes. Superintendent Hughes acted like a madman. His face was distorted with rage, and he cut about indiscriminately with his whip, whilst the men used their staves.

A master tailor stated he saw two mounted police riding about. The one on a bay or chestnut horse was striking at the people with his riding whip as he passed along. The people round said it was Inspector Hughes. He struck indiscriminately, not with any very great violence, but it was very offensive. The people expressed great disgust at his conduct. They called him a blackguard and a rascal, but not loud enough for him to hear. Was quite certain Superintendent Hughes struck the people with his whip.

Mr. Planchard saw Superintendent Hughes riding about. He looked like a maniac, and did not seem to know what he was doing. He gave orders, which were immediately followed by sorties by the police, who struck away indiscriminately with their truncheons—at least some did, while others stood still, and appeared disgusted with the proceedings.

One witness said he saw a man on a pale horse—pale did he look, and diabolical was his countenance. The people hissed at a carriage; then the mounted man raised his whip, and the police immediately tore a tall aristocratic-looking man over the railings.

Sir R. Mayne said—Inspector Hughes had the chief command. I think him particularly well qualified, from his service, first as constable in October, 1830, from that promoted to sergeant, November, 1831; inspector, 1836; superintendent, 1844: total service, twenty-four years nine months as inspector and sergeant. He served in the A division, which has more experience in dealing with large bodies of persons. They attend at the Houses of Parliament, and at Ascot and Epsom. When he was made superintendent, the clerk of the course at Ascot applied specially that he should be sent.

A complaint had been made against Superintendent Hughes on one occasion, for improperly entering a house and arresting a person. The magistrate inflicted a fine of 40s. In consequence of the strong representations made to the Commissioners, Mr. Hughes was not dismissed. There was also another complaint made by an officer of the Guards against Mr. Hughes, for refusing to prevent the people entering a certain door in Chelsea Hospital during the lying in state of the late Duke of Wellington.

VIOLENCE OF THE POLICE GENERALLY.

James Martin, (who had been invalidated owing to wounds received in the trenches in the Crimea), said he was in the Park as a quiet spectator, when 349 A, struck him on the thigh with his truncheon. Called out that he was a cripple and a wounded sailor, but the police paid no heed to him. Being crippled, witness could not run away, and the police charged him, and overpowered him, and the blood gushed from him. He lost a great deal of blood. Their charge was not like a charge of Russians, but like a charge of wild beasts.

A native of Schleswig-Holstein was struck on the head, neck, arms, and back. His head was cut open, and his clothes covered with blood, and he was afterwards taken by a policeman to St. George's Hospital. He lost at least half a pint of blood on the road in Park Street. The policeman who took him to the hospital said it was "unfair to maul a man about in such a manner who was doing nothing, but when they received orders they were bound to obey them."

One witness, refusing to be subject to the treatment of the police, was taken up by five or six of them, and thrown amongst the crowd.

John Thomas King, 17 years old, son of a blacksmith, saw a policeman dragging a little boy along; on going towards him was pushed in front by the mob, when he was struck by 174 A with his truncheon on the forehead and partly stunned. While on the ground, he felt three other blows from the same policeman. Came to his senses while his wounds were being dressed in St. George's Hospital. Was unable to work for a whole week. Was under the doctor's hands four days.

One individual deposed to finding himself in the middle of a ring formed by the police, was seized, handcuffed, and taken to the Vine Street Station. While there a man was brought in, whose clothes were wet through, as if he had been in the Serpentine. He appeared also as if he had been drinking. His clothes were torn and his shirt pulled off his back. Heard the policeman say, "You obstinate devil! what trouble it has taken to bring you here!" The policeman then raised his fist and struck him on the nose, causing the blood to flow, and knocked him down on his back.

Thomas Cameron found himself surrounded by a crowd, and suddenly received three blows—on his leg, thigh, and arm. (The witness exhibited his arm, which was frightfully discoloured.)

A Mr. Planchard deposed that he saw one man in a state of nudity—his shirt appeared to be torn off, and his hands seemed to be tied, and a policeman was beating him with his truncheon over the head with great violence. He also saw a man struck by a policeman with a truncheon. The policeman said, "I will let daylight into you," and then kicked the man. His number was 375 A.

Mr. Pyemont, stockbroker, said, I think in this case it was not isolated brutality, but official brutality. If I had been alone I should certainly have taken the numbers of some of the police, but I am confident, from what I saw, I should have had my own head broken if I had; for I saw one man taken into custody for merely smiling.

STRIKING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

One witness described the conduct of Superintendent Hughes in ordering a charge of the police on some people opposite the Receiving House. In that charge he saw several policemen poke their staves in the women's stomachs. Mr. Hughes pushed his horse forward, and almost trampled

on the people. The women were dreadfully frightened and screamed terribly. Saw four elegantly-dressed ladies rush into the water to avoid being struck.

Colonel Henry Harcourt Aulney, 76, Stanley Street, Eccleston Square, said, he had been colonel in the 31st Regiment, and he had also been in the House Guards Blue. He served during the Peninsular war, and, when in Italy, in 1848, had occasion to disperse mobs. He was in Hyde Park on Sunday, July 1. He saw two lads leaning over the rails, and a policeman struck one of the lads on the head with his truncheon, and then poked his truncheon savagely into the stomach of the other. The policeman observed witness taking his number, and crossed the road and assaulted two other young persons with similar violence.

One witness stated he heard a boy cry, "Go to church," and the police seized him and struck him on the back. Another boy was knocked down by a blow across the loins by A 344. The boy made several attempts to rise. He appeared almost paralyzed. Another policeman struck at a boy of 14, and, not succeeding, kicked at him, and then went back and smiled and winked at his comrades.

A boot-closer saw a group of police (near Apsley House) drive some boys into the road, and commence deliberately striking them on the head; the boys were then met by another group of police, who drove them back again, and they were thus pushed backwards and forwards for some minutes. (Sensation.)

A respectable wine merchant saw 345 A strike several ladies across the back, and, on his remonstrating, 345 A said he would knock his—head off.

Robert Hartwell saw a policeman strike a boy such a blow on the back of the neck, that a lady standing by fainted on seeing the blow.—

THE CHARGE IN FRONT OF LORD GROSVENOR'S HOUSE.

Mr. Lewis Franklin said there were about 200 people before Lord R. Grosvenor's house. They were talking in small groups about the bill, and pointing out the house to each other. There was no disorder in the street. The balconies were full of people, who appeared interested in what was going on, but not at all alarmed. Suddenly a shout came from a small number of persons. There was then an immediate rush of the people in consequence of the mysterious appearance of a body of police. The crowd was dispersed almost in a minute, and he found himself surrounded by about thirty policemen. He became alarmed, and considering it was their object more to inflict injury than to apprehend delinquents, he turned down an adjoining street to get out of their way; just as he did so, he received a violent blow on the back of the head, which knocked off his hat and cut his head open, and the blood flowed copiously.

Mr. Richard Fuller Sandell, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, drove through the Park with his wife at half-past four on the Sunday, and received no annoyance. He saw from his house a crowd approaching Lord R. Grosvenor's house, and went to see the cause. While speaking to a friend, an inspector came up and ordered him off. He remonstrated, when the policeman struck him under the ear, and afterwards under the back part of the head.

William Stephens, hairdresser, was seeing a relation of his wife's home, about six o'clock. As he was returning, saw a slight rush on the part of the people near Grosvenor Street. Received a violent blow on the back, and, on turning round to see whence the blow came, he was struck on the mouth by a policeman. He received repeated blows until he was felled into the road by a blow from truncheon. One eye was blackened, his mouth cut, his lower row of teeth loosened, and his coat torn. Remained nothing more till he was put into a cab. This witness's evidence was confirmed by numerous eye-witnesses of the occurrence.

A furnishing undertaker of Mount Street, saw a man, who probably was mistaken for witness, struck by a policeman, and his cheek smashed in. The policeman said to the man, "Go to the hospital and get your wounds dressed, or I will give you three times as much."

REFUSALS TO BAIL.

A commercial traveller was taken into custody entirely by the order of Superintendent Hughes, who was pale with rage, and acted like a madman. His wife returned to the station-house with a friend to bail him, but orders, the police told her, had been given to bail no one. One of his employers offered to bail him on the Monday morning following, but he was refused. A large number of witnesses depos'd to the fact of the refusal to take bail in any instance.

Mr. Ellis said the power of bailing was discretionary power, under the Police Act, in the person in command of the station, probably an inspector.

The memorandum sent by Sir R. Mayne was, "Remove as many to Marylebone-station as there is room for. Bail should not be taken for any one charged with rioting or actual disorder, nor unless the bail is thought to be sufficient surely."

THE STATE OF THE VINE STREET CELLS.

The commercial traveller, part of whose evidence we have already given, says he was put into an underground cell, like a pigsty, in which there were more persons than could sit down. It was intensely hot during the night, and had not a policeman kindly opened the door several times, he thought they would have been suffocated.

A third witness states he was put in a cell downstairs. There were nine persons in the cell, which was very small and dark, only one small hole for ventilation. The cell was dry when he went in, but it soon became wet. There was no light in it. Some of them felt very faint.

Another witness said the cell at Vine Street was in a most filthy state. There was a cesspool at one end, and at one time in the evening there were 43 persons in the cell. The cell was about 18 feet by 7 feet. The cell was two inches deep in slush and filth.

SIR R. MAYNE'S EVIDENCE.

I am a barrister by profession. I have had experience of every kind of disturbance in that period. The foundation of the arrangements for the 1st of July was what passed on Sunday, the 24th June. There is a standing order against any preaching or meeting of any kind in the Park on any day. All the reports concur in stating they had reason to believe a large number of persons would attend. They influenced me in coming to a conclusion, and I received them before I issued my notice. I got those notices on Friday morning. The tone of the press on this subject also influenced me. In the middle of the day I communicated with the Secretary of State, and received instructions to prepare a notice. I did so, and it was approved by the Under Secretary, and appeared in the papers of Saturday morning, and was posted up during the day, and at every entrance to the Park on Sunday morning. It was sanctioned by the legal Under Secretary. It might be well that it should be known that any person remaining where a riot is going on is a rioter. When the Riot Act has been read, any 12 persons remaining are not only rioters, but felons. He found that, connected with the proceedings of the 1st of July, 4 police were assaulted:—I struck in the back with a stone slightly; I knocked down by a blow on the head, and slightly cut; I thrown down and slightly injured; I eye blackened from a stone thrown at him. Sir Richard then read further—45 assaulted, 7 kicked, 25 struck with stones, and 13 struck with sticks and pieces of hurdles.

FALL FROM A CLIFF.—On the morning of Wednesday, 18th, a most distressing accident occurred at Broadstairs. Miss Sophia Wetherby, a young lady about 26 years of age, whose father and family have been for some time resident in the village, went out for a walk on the West Cliff. She took a book in her hand, and having crossed Henniker-bridge, proceeded to walk and read upon the very edge of the precipice. She wore a thick black veil, and that, together with the shade of her parasol, rendered the position she had unwisely chosen still more perilous. A person passing at the time, struck with her imminent danger, warned her, but to no purpose; she still pursued her fearful journey, as the next instant proved, into the jaws of death, for before she had proceeded many more paces, having turned her eyes but an instant from her path, to gather a flower, as is supposed, she fell from the dizzy height upon the beach. It was found that the fall had broken both her legs, fractured her skull, and most frightfully lacerated her frame. Death immediately ensued, and an inquest was held on view of the body on Thursday, when a verdict in accordance with the facts was returned.

THE DUNMOW FLITCH OF BACON.

"He that repents him not of his marriage in a year and a day, either sleeping or waking, may lawfully go to Dunmow and fetch a gammon of bacon."

OLD ESSEX SAYING.

A GOOD WIFE is not only a crown unto a husband, but, for the future, she may also be fletch of bacon unto him, if she chooses to go down to Dunmow and claim one. "The time-honoured custom"—as Mr. Ainsworth persisted in styling a ceremony which has been neglected and disallowed for nearly a century—has been revived again. Any married couple who can conscientiously swear—or, if they have courage and impudence enough, can unconsciously declare, that they have passed a twelvemonth and a day in perfect harmony and happiness, will receive as their reward a couple of hundred weight of the mildest breakfast bacon, warranted to be "Dunmow bred, Dunmow fed, and Dunmow cured."

Hitherto music has been the only recognised food of love, but now the *corte du jour* can boast of the addition of bacon. This may be cooked in a variety of tantalising ways. Fried with eggs, it will remind the wedded lovers of the "yoke" they endure so pleasantly; or boiled with that emblem of immortality—the bean—it will serve as a token of their everlasting affection; or as an accompaniment to the fowl, it will call up the picture of the gentle hen—the poetic symbol of motherly love.

"To say that a couple 'deserve the fletch' is a high compliment," writes Mr. Charles Pavye—by order of the committee; "but to say that 'they have actually won it,' is to proclaim them amongst the happiest of mankind." What, then, must be the feelings of the man and wife who have not only won their bacon, but eaten it! How full they must be of love! For the future, Cupid should alter his name to "*Flitchery Witchet*," and change his quiver of arrows for a bundle of ham skewers.

In the year 1854, Mr. Ainsworth published his tale of "The Flitch of Bacon." The inhabitants of Dunmow read the book, and felt their hearts swell within them as they perused over this record of the ancient custom of their native town. The simple word "Bacon" roused them as a war song rouses a Highland Chieftain, and as the notes of the clarion stattle and excite the old war-horse. A meeting was called at the Town Hall, a committee formed, and a resolution passed that so good a custom ought to be revived. A letter was sent to Mr. Ainsworth asking for his co-operation.

How could so poetic a novelist as Mr. Ainsworth refuse? If the Dunmowites were roused, it was his doing. It was he who had caused them to revolt from their every-day tranquillity; it was he who had taught them the war-cry of "Connubial felicity and Bacon!" In answer to their request, the committee received a beautiful letter, containing a promise of five guineas towards the expenses of the ceremony, and an undertaking to present the Flitch of Bacon to any couple who might claim it.

For one entire century no claim has been made for the Dunmow fletch. Our forefathers and foremothers must have been very bad husbands and wives. There were Lovelaces and Charles Surfaces in the world then, who could make such deadly love, and say such beautiful things, that no wife was safe. The husbands, too, were very fond of drinking, and a man who can stow away his six bottles of wine, or his ten quarts of beer, cannot have much room left in his body for love. There was more hiccuping than conjugal cooing in those days. The pop of the cork, or the gurgling of the tap, was infinitely preferred to the sound of wife's tongue. How could a lady, who seven nights a week helped to carry her ricketty spouse to bed, refrain from wishing herself "unmarried again?" How could a gentleman, who discovered his better-half constantly taking moonlight walks with a dashing stranger, avoid "household brawls or contentious strife?"

But mark the difference between 1755 and 1855! Notice how we—the present generation—have purified and filtered, and become sparkling and pure! The mud has settled, we are clear as crystal.

Scarcely had "notice been given" in the local papers that all claimants for the Flitch of Bacon must send in their applications, than the committee was inundated with letters demanding the virtuous reward. They were as numerous as the leaves on a rose, and each one as full as a Dutch woman's skirt. Only fourteen of them were, however, printed, so the others are unfortunately lost to the world.

Both Mr. and Mrs. — were able, freely and conscientiously, to claim the fletch, and were desirous of doing so long ago, but the postmaster of Dunmow had told them he considered the custom obsolete.

One person was willing to lay his claim before the committee, if it could possibly be done without requiring his wife to take the oath. He was willing to swear for her as well as himself.

This strikes us as being a mean attempt to purloin the bacon. Perhaps his wife is one of those unfortunate ladies who wish "they had never set eyes on the man." A question might arise, whether he had never been as willing to swear at his wife as he was now to swear for her.

Another husband writes, that he is entitled to the prize. He was once in good circumstances; but though, in the words of our recent *Rebus*, poverty came in at the door, love was not mean enough to rush out at the window. But, alas! he was married at the Registrar's Office, and therefore he and his wife could not swear that "since the church clerk said 'Amen,' they never wished themselves unmarried again," for there was no church clerk present at their wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell, (this poor lady died shortly afterwards), Mr. and Mrs. Barlow, and Monsieur and Madame de Chatelain, also sent in their claims, each of their letters being as redolent of love as if a full bottle of the "Bouquet d'Amour" had been spilt over the writing paper.

To give greater effect to the ceremony, it was determined that the procession to and from the Town Hall should be as gorgeous as possible. The committee cast their eyes around them. They wanted horses of all colours—some with spots, and all with long tails; they wanted velvet coats and velvet gowns, and music and chariots. Fame whispered in their ears the name of "E. T. Smith." A man who can make Drury Lane a paying property, must be a great man. As he had, strange to say, sent in a claim for the fletch, his address was easily found. That gentleman at once, most obligingly and handsomely, acceded to the proposition. He instantly ordered the property-room to be looked over, and himself pointed out the peasants', beefeaters', and minstrels' costumes to be worn on the occasion. Garlands by the mile, golden-wands, and banners, were carefully placed in packing-cases, and sent off, carriage paid, to Dunmow.

Mr. James Barlow, and Hannah, his wife, were the couple who stood first on the Committee's good books. The only objection we have to this choice is, that Mr. Barlow resides at Chipping Ongar, a town whose name is not only ugly, but positively offensive. It reminds us of big eels. How such a place, with such a title, can contain a happy pair is incomprehensible. What was Maydew about? Was Clovernook asleep?

The Chevalier and Madame de Chatelain, are each of them writers of distinction. The lady is of English birth, and the authoress of numerous charming volumes, amongst which we cannot help naming "The Silver Swan" and "The Blind Fisherman."

It was originally intended that only one prize should be given away. But the fact of a French gentleman having sent in a claim, caused the committee to break through this resolution; and, as the bills said, "out of compliment to the Anglo-French alliance," the Chevalier was admitted as a successful candidate for the honour.

This is, it appears to us, very unjust towards our other Allies. We can understand that, so far as regards the Turks, it would be impossible to show them a similar courtesy. First of all, the great number of wives allowed by the Mahometan religion, precludes the possibility of a perfectly united household; and, secondly, the Turks do not eat pork. But, why were our fighting friends, the Sardinians, excluded? Perhaps it was considered that those who had gone to the Crimea would be too fully occupied in saving their own bacon to care about coming all the way to Dunmow for a slice of Essex pork.

On Thursday, the 19th of July, 1855, the sun would have risen in all his glory, but it rained too hard. At 7 o'clock in the morning the angry sky commenced spitting like a savage cat, as though it was jealous at the constant allusions made by the Dunmow claimants to their lives of perpetual sunshine, and was determined to cloud their boasted happiness for once. But the sight of a couple who, during 15 years' wedlock, have never wished themselves unmarried again, is a rare spectacle, compared with which the

Edmonton Twins or the Singing Mouse are every-day occurrences. When we reached the Eastern Counties Railway Station a long train was already crowded, and the porters were attaching more carriages. In spite of rain, everybody was dressed in the most splendid attire—delicate bonnets, too soon, alas! to be reduced to the consistency of paper pulp; silk dresses, that a few seconds in the open air would mark with rain drops, till they should rival in stains the late lamented Mr. Richardson's spotted boy.

The journey down to Bishops' Stortford was an uninteresting one, for the beautiful scenery was hidden behind the heavy rain. If, however, it was very miserable without, it was very merry within the carriages; for everybody was laughing and talking. In those compartments where there were ladies, the Dunmow Fletch furnished ample materials for desperate flirtations, which were carried on with considerable warmth and effect, despite the early hour. Where only gentlemen were together, strangers offered each other cigars, and those who did not smoke, made no objection to it, and coughed as seldom as possible.

On arriving at Bishops' Stortford, the troubles began. This place is nine miles distant from Dunmow, and, in order to get over the ground, a number of furniture vans, and carrier's wagons, with tarpaulin coverings, had been provided by Mr. Patmore, of the Railway Inn. When the people saw these ponderous vehicles, with their heavy cart-horses, they were astonished; when they were informed that they must clamber up the muddy wheels, and take their seats inside, on the wet deal planks, they were disgusted; but when, after keeping them waiting for half an hour, Mr. Patmore in person came round for the money, and, charging a preposterous price, told them that, without pre-payment, the driver had orders not to move, then the indignation of the thirty inside knew no bounds (excepting those necessary for jumping out of the wagon), and, in a body, they quitted their now dry seats. At this critical moment, a good and upright man of the name of Sheldrake came to our aid, the owner of an open cart and fast trotting mare.

When we reached Dunmow, we found the streets filled with crowds of visitors. Carts and vans, covered over with boughs, were driving into the town; men with trucks of strawberries, and barrows of oysters, were hurrying on to the fair held on the green; and foot passengers innumerable were besieging the different public houses. The proprietor of the inn where that excellent mortal, Sheldrake, put up his mare, exclaimed aloud, that the wet "had played the deuce with us;" but he was wrong to grumble, for his ale was bad, and yet his house was full.

Outside the Town Hall there was a mob of several hundred persons. The shops around were all closed, but the windows were wide open, and filled with heads. The Saracen's Head Commercial Inn had bonnets thrust out of every available opening. On the roof of the houses in front, young gentlemen were clambering over the tiles, and evidently as much delighted with the luxury of getting wet through as with the view they obtained of the populace. There were carts and carriages of all sorts ranged at the corners of the streets to see the procession pass. Some had driven up with post-horses, and the postillion in his blue jacket was enduring the pelting shower with a resignation that would have to be dearly paid for in the reckoning. There were gigs, with their aprons closely buttoned up and the big umbrellas mounted like tents, and carts, with the drivers wearing sacks over their heads, arranged like the *cabans* of the Bedouin Arabs. Those on foot were principally countrymen and farmers. The most numerous costume was the green smock-frock, with highly-embroidered shoulder and breast piece, which imparted to the wearer somewhat the appearance of a big girl in a pin-a-farce, with her sash untied.

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It was two o'clock, and the hall was nearly filled, the greater portion of the audience being ladies. We felt grateful for being under shelter from the rain, which was beating like small shot against the bay window at the end. It was a little pill-box of a place, scarcely larger than a parish school-room, with white cement walls, oak-painted cross-beams to support the slanting roof, and a little gallery on one side, about the size of an omnibus. In a corner had been erected a green baize jury-box, railed in with the white wands and flower-baskets afterwards to be used in the procession. A president's chair and table for counsel had also been squeezed into the smallest possible space against the wall. The jury of virgins and bachelors had already taken their places, and of course we made it our first duty to examine them minutely. The bachelors we dismiss in a line—they had their best clothes on, and had greased their hair with great liberality and ostentation, due care being bestowed on the curl that rested—round as an eyeglass—in the centre of the forehead.

But the virgins! It would take a volume to describe them properly—their eyes alone would require an entire chapter, and numerous coloured illustrations. Somebody told us that they, all of them, resided at Dunmow. Why do they hide themselves so far away from London? Why should they live in a place forty miles off, with expensive railway fares to and fro?

Three of the virgins had light hair, varying in tint from a bright amber to a deep rich Margate slipper. They wore their hair brushed back from the forehead, with the loose twisting curls gathered together in a round cushion that encircled the head like a glory of gold. Their eyelids were delicate and transparent as rose leaves, their mouths were only just large enough for mince meat to pass through, and to this day, it appears to us a miracle how they managed to breathe down their wonderfully minute noses. The other three young ladies were *brunettes*.

Our admiration of the virgins never ceased until Mr. E. T. Smith's bass voice announced the arrival of the court and counsel. Then we tore our eyes away, like a half-stuck postage-stamp from a letter, and looked round the room to compose ourselves. All the other ladies in the hall had mounted on chairs and benches, to have a good look at the president. The bay window was crowded with oval faces and slender figures, and in the gallery above, the delicate forms bent forward, and up went the eye-glasses like guns.

"We have met," said Mr. Ainsworth, in his opening address, "to revive the time-honoured custom of the Flitch of Bacon." He then proceeded to give a rapid historical account of the curious usage, how it was originated in the 12th century, and must therefore be 700 years old. He mixed the Knight Templars up with the custom, and made France and Germany come forward and bear witness to the truth of his historical assertions. Such a custom, so peculiar, so jocular, ought, he declared, to be upheld; and he gave a thousand and one very excellent reasons to show he was in the right. Besides all this, he proved that there was a gateway in Austria over which was written,

"If there be found a married man
Who will declare, if he can,
That he doth not marriage rue,
Nor have for wife a shrew,
He may this bacon down hew."

Nobody seemed inclined to doubt the learned president's facts, so he sat down into his comfortable chair again; and then Mr. Bell, the counsel for the claimants, obliged the company with speech.

Mr. Bell had no sooner commenced speaking, than we found he was over in France, in the midst of the Courts of Love. He insisted that these ordeals were very similar to the Dunmow custom, and that therefore the Flitch of Bacon ought not to be neglected. He often referred to "the bright eyes and happy mouths" around him, and made many pointed allusions to the fair inhabitants of Dunmow, which were loudly applauded.

Mr. Costello, the counsel for the court, then rose, and spoke a great deal of valuable and interesting matter, which, unfortunately, we were unable to listen to, owing to a young lady with a lace bonnet and violet strings, suddenly rising up on her chair, and petrifying us with her amazing beauty.

The business of the Court then commenced. The jury answered to their names, and with breathless interest we listened to six out of the twelve responses. The virgin with the amber-coloured hair is a Miss Lydia Collis, the Margate-slipper beauty is a Miss Emily Richmond, and one of the *brunettes* answers to the name of Caroline Bostock. But, alas! where are their addresses!

One of the virgins, mistaking the nature of the ceremony, and no doubt fancying herself before the altar instead of in a packed jury, replied, in a firm voice, "I will." There was a roar of laughter, in which all joined, excepting ourselves.

The counsel for the claimants then ordered Mr. James Barlow to step into the witness box, and prove his title to the prize in open court.

In answer to the various questions, Mr. Barlow said: He began life as a servant; was four years in service as a kind of general servant, footman, coachman, gardener, and errand-boy (laughter)—a kind of factotum, in truth. (Renewed laughter.) He was by trade a bricklayer and builder, and felt satisfied with his condition. He was acquainted with his wife for four years before he married her. Fell in love with her. All their courtship was carried on by letter: she was 100 miles away. Was not particularly favoured by the sex, but believed he might have had others. (Cheering). Had never heard of the sympathetic powder which made people fall in love. Had no need of any, and did not use any. Never had a quarrel with Mrs. Barlow—decidedly not. Never differed on any matrimonial point from Mrs. Barlow; for instance, if, when taking tea, his wife said, "James, you've had three cups," he replied, "Very well, my dear." (Laughter). Never had any occasion to quarrel about the colour of a new dress for his wife: she always bought her own things, and what pleased her delighted him. (Cheers from the ladies). Had never regretted his marriage; his only sorrow was, that the years had flown away so quickly. (Ironical cheers from a gentleman in the gallery).

Cross-examined by Mr. Costello.—Chipping Ongar was 14 miles from Dunmow. They had come over in a public vehicle—with friends. Didn't get up remarkably early—indeed he never got up early. He was quite ready to start. Didn't keep Mrs. Barlow waiting. If he hadn't been ready, his wife would only have said, "James, don't hurry yourself." Of the two, his wife was ready the first. Was not delayed by any domestic arrangement. Would take his solemn oath he wasn't. No, the keys were not mislaid—certainly not. He had no pecuniary or personal object in view in claiming the fletch. Was not going to sell it again. For himself, he was not over-fond of bacon. Dare say Mrs. Barlow enjoying a slice occasionally; but he never asked how she liked it done, but thought it was with peas. (Cheers.) Yes, he often carried an umbrella; but it was never mislaid. Mrs. Barlow always put everything again in the right place. (Applause from several old gentlemen.) Usually kept his temper with everybody; but, perhaps, he might occasionally—

Mr. Bell—I object to the course of cross-examination my learned friend is pursuing. It has nothing to do with my client's married life.

Mr. Costello appealed to the court; but his Lordship decided in favour of the objection.

Cross-examination continued.—Mrs. Barlow was in the habit of doing up her back hair at night.

Mr. Bell remarked that the last question was a very serious one. Many ladies wore streamers in their back hair, called in his part of the country "heart crushers."

Cross-examination continued.—He was aware that last winter was a severe one. Sometimes he was first to get into bed, and sometimes Mrs. Barlow was. If he had to warm her place for her, he never grumbled. She often warmed his.

Mrs. Barlow was next called, and entered the witness-box all smiles and blushes. She is considerably younger than her husband. She stated that her husband first fell in love with her. Had no secrets from him. He was generally of a lively temper—at least with her.

Cross-examined.—Was fond of neatness, and liked the house to be clean; but Barlow never came into the rooms with muddy boots. If he did, it wouldn't matter. (Applause from the gentlemen.) Never remembered him to have spilt gravy or wine on a clean table-cloth. Their chimneys at home did occasionally smoke. Never asked Barlow to alter them, not because she did not admire his building abilities, but because she did not like to trouble him. Mr. Barlow had corns, but when he suffered he never displayed temper. He bore corns with the fortitude of a saint. (Applause.)

Miss Mary Ann Clarke, the first witness, deposed—Had known Mr. and Mrs. Barlow for 15 years. Often saw them at home, and had many opportunities of watching them. They were a very happy couple, and she never heard them say an angry word. Had never dined with them, but frequently tea'd. Had never had any bacon at Mr. Barlow's, but hoped she would now. (Laughter.)

Cross-examined.—Had frequently seen Mrs. Barlow wearing a new bonnet, but had never heard that it was the result of a compromised quarrel. Mrs. Barlow always bought her own bonnets, and as many as she wanted.

Mr. William Nicholas, the next witness, then stepped forward. Had been twelve years the governor of Ongar Union, and had known the Barlows for ten years. Barlow bore prosperity well, and wasn't lifted high above his fellows in consequence. Had seen Barlow under convivial circumstances, when taking his glass. He knew exactly what point to drink up to. At such moments Barlow unbended himself. Never saw him the worse for liquor. They were a very happy couple.

Cross-examined.—Didn't think he had played a game of whist at Mr. Barlow's house; but would swear he had "speculation." Had seen Mr. and Mrs. Barlow play whist with others; they were always partners. If Mrs. Barlow trumped her husband's best card, he kept his temper. Never saw a suspicious-looking stick hanging up behind the door.

This concluded the case for and against the Barlows. The question was then put to the jury, whether they were entitled to the bacon—when an instantaneous verdict of "O yes, of course," "I think so," and "Certainly," was given in their favour. For three minutes the hall rang with applause and laughter.

The same formalities were then gone through with M. Chatelain and his lady.

The Chevalier said, "He was a French jontlemen, and was married at St. Pancras church in London. It was varree staped to say literaree ladies make bad wife. His was a loave match, certanee. He admired beautifool ladies evaree wheare. Generallee evaree ladee was an object of his admeeration, as evaree tree and bierd was also an object of his admeeration."

Now that the examinations were over, we hurried into the open air, and looked for a good place for viewing the procession. We were delighted to find that the sun was shining in full force, drying the mob and the dirty roads with equal success. In a short time the procession was in motion.

First of all came the police, clearing the road by splashing boldly through the puddles. Then followed the Grand Marshall in black velvet and gold lace. Next came yeoman on cream, spotted, and piebald horses. To give a pleasing sentiment to the pageant, ladies passed carrying garlands of artificial flowers, the same that had been so often employed to render the Drury Lane ballets attractive. Gentlemen and ladies from Mr. Smith's circus gave effect to the scene, by the variety and mysteriousness of their costumes. The jury were seated in a carriage driven by a gentleman in a chintz dressing-gown. Four gentlemen with wands imparted a fairy-like sprightliness to the *troupe*. The private carriage with the desponding post-boy, whose spirits had been dampened by the morning's rain, we now discovered to belong to Mr. Ainsworth. As he passed along, the multitude roared out their admiration, and raised forlorn hopes in minds of the rain-stained horses, that they might be removed from the traces, and the people pull the vehicle along in their stead. The Flitches of Bacon were carried proudly past, swinging heavily from their iron hooks, and making the backs of the four ham-and-bean-eaters who carried them, ache with their wobbling weights. The happy couples—seated on chairs, and borne on the shoulders of fantastically dressed foresters, attracted admiration as they clung with a nervous clutch to the wooden sides of their perilous thrones. There were two bands, both in eccentric costumes, who blew vigorously down their wind instruments, and seemed to be playing a wind match, rather than music. Gigs, carts, vans, farmers on horseback, peasants, and populace close the long line of the procession.

The oath was to have been administered on the green, but the rush of spectators was so great, that the only oath we heard, was from a gentleman who had his coat torn off his back.

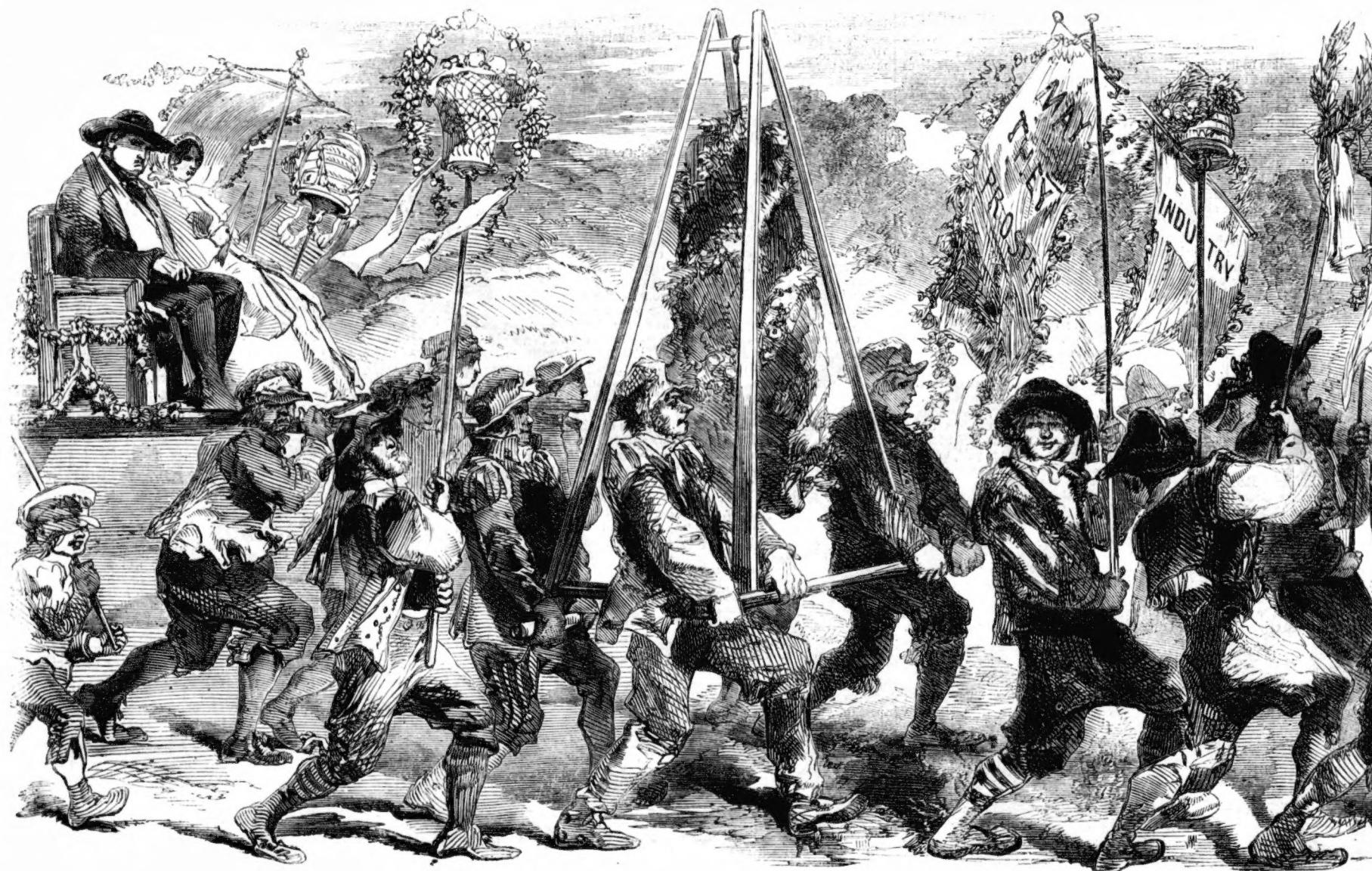
In the evening a grand dinner was given by Mr. E. T. Smith, at the Saracen's Head Commercial Hotel, which was presided over by Mr. Ainsworth.



THE PROCESSION OF THE DUNMOW FLITCH IN



THE OLDEN TIME.—(FROM A PAINTING BY ST



THE PROCESSION OF THE



DUNMOW FLITCH ON JULY 19, 1855



THE PROCESSION OF THE DUNMOW FLITCH IN

THE OLDEN TIME.—(FROM A PAINTING BY STOTHARD.)



THE PROCESSION OF THE

DUNMOW FLITCH ON JULY 19, 1855

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES OF LAW REFORM.

Lord LYNDHURST complained of the abortive issue of the attempts made during the present session to pass legal and other measures.

The Lord CHANCELLOR attributed the abandonment of the measures referred to the engrossing interest of the war, which had absorbed the time usually devoted to matters of this kind.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

Lord BROUGHTON presented a petition from the Anti-Slavery Society, calling attention to the fact that British subjects were owners of slaves in foreign possessions. He also adverted to the continued traffic in slaves which was carried on in Cuba.

Lord CLARENDON hoped that the observations of the Noble Lord would have due effect on the owners of slave property to whom he had alluded. With regard to Cuba, he could not give him much comfort, but still it was a fact that the importation of slaves into that island had greatly decreased during the past year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DECIMAL COINAGE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. G. Dundas, announced that the Government had decided to appoint a commission to investigate the subject of a decimal coinage.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Lord PALMERSTON said, in reply to Mr. Layard, that the detailed arrangements agreed to at the Conference at Vienna regarding the first and second points were settled provisionally, on condition that the whole treaty should be satisfactorily arranged, and, that not being the case, her Majesty's Government, with the concurrence of Austria, held itself free to re-discuss any of the matters provisionally agreed to with regard to the Danubian Principalities. The fundamental principle of the first point was that Russia should no longer exercise that exclusive protectorate in the Principalities which she had hitherto enjoyed.

LORD J. RUSSELL'S INSTRUCTIONS AT VIENNA.

Mr. DISRAELI asked a second time whether there was any objection to lay upon the table copies of the instructions given to Lord John as plenipotentiary at Vienna.

Lord PALMERSTON replied, that as a general rule it was objectionable to do so, inasmuch as the course would be fraught with injury to the public service. In the present instance, he had no objections to give extracts of the instructions.

MILITARY REWARDS.

Colonel NORTH inquired whether officers who wish to take advantage of the Queen's late warrant for the retirement of officers on full pay, and obtaining a step in rank, will be permitted to retain the reward for distinguished service?

The question gave rise to some discussion, in the course of which Mr. F. PEEL said it was considered not desirable to encourage re-enlistments on full pay.

TRANSACTIONS ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

Sir C. Wood, in answer to Mr. Bright, stated that no official despatches had been received respecting the disastrous encounter said to have occurred between British troops and the natives in a town on the African coast.

THE METROPOLIS LOCAL MANAGEMENT BILL.

Lord SEYMOUR inquired of Sir B. Hall whether he intended to introduce a clause to prevent the sewage falling into the Thames.

Sir B. HALL said it was intended to provide that no drainage should go into the Thames after five years from next December.

The bill was then read a third time.

THE TURKISH LOAN.

Lord PALMERSTON moved a resolution authorising her Majesty to guarantee the interest on a loan of £5,000,000, to be contracted for by the Sultan, in pursuance of the convention of the 27th of June last, between the Emperor of the French and the Sultan, and that provision be made for the payment of any interest required to fulfil the guarantee, as specified in the convention. He observed that it was no reproach to Turkey to say that her resources were unequal to the struggle, her ordinary revenue being about £10,000,000. Last year she was obliged to resort to a loan, and, that being insufficient, the Turkish Government put it to the Governments of England and France that, unless additional means were found, the current naval and military expenses could not be defrayed. The matter was seriously considered by the two Governments. Various means might be suggested; the two Governments might furnish a subsidy, but that was not deemed expedient, or for the benefit of Turkey herself, and it was thought that the best course was to afford to the Turkish Government the assistance of the credit of England and France by the guarantee of a loan, to be repaid out of the resources of Turkey. Then came the question, whether the less guarantee of the two countries should be separate or joint. The former was more in accordance with precedent; but the French Government laid great stress upon their preference of the latter, and, under the circumstances, the wish of the French Government was deferred to, and the joint guarantee adopted. Then came the question, what probability was there that the Turkish Government could pay the loan out of its own resources? He had no doubt that Turkey had ample means to make good its engagements. Her resources were infinitely greater than had been hitherto developed, in her commerce, and in her mines of metal and coal, when emancipated from Russian agency. The security for the loan would be the surplus tribute from Egypt, £65,000 a-year, and beyond that the entire revenues of the country. It was the intention of the two Governments to make an arrangement with the Government of Turkey that the money raised by the loan should be applied to the military service.

Mr. RICARDO strongly objected to recommend the system of subsidies, to which fully one-tenth of the existing debt of this country must be attributed. The plan of a joint guarantee was objectionable; the possibilities of dispute and collision with France might grow out of the pending arrangement.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER denied that the operation now proposed bore any relation to a subsidy. A joint guarantee had been arranged at the instance of the French government, with whom an agreement was made that if ever called upon to pay the debt, or any part of it, the several countries should provide the money in equal portions. The joint guarantee would enable the Porte to raise the loan on much better terms, and thus be a great gain to Turkey, whereas there was no risk to England or France.

Mr. GLADSTONE apprehended that the Governments were embarking upon a serious and perilous course. Nothing but positive necessity could warrant a proposal to guarantee the debt of another country, and this necessity did not, in his belief, exist in the case of Turkey, who had lately proved her power of obtaining money on her own credit. If Turkey was actually in distress for money, it would be better to grant a supply in an open and direct manner. To the present measure he objected, especially on account of its complex nature, entangling England and France in very intricate responsibilities, and leading in all probability to serious political difficulties.

Lord PALMERSTON said, in reply, that the conditions under which the repayment of the loan would be secured were to be made the subject of a separate treaty.

Mr. DISRAELI urged that the guarantee was equivalent to an advance of capital. He questioned the favourable account given by Lord Palmerston of the resources of Turkey, and reminded the House that representations quite as florid were made concerning Greece in the days of the Greek loan.

Sir DE LACY EVANS hoped that no serious obstacle would be thrown in the way of our assisting Turkey in her present need, and while she was carrying on an effective war upon very scanty resources.

Mr. CORDEN commented upon the indignity which he believed was offered to the Porte by the suggested scheme for the administration of the loan. We were obtaining a mortgage over the revenues of Egypt, Syria, and Asia Minor, depriving Turkey of her resources, and compromising her independence.

Mr. CARDWELL said the convention practically drew from the British people money over whose expenditure they would have no control. It involved a disgrace and a deception, entailed political embarrassments on the country, and left open the prospect of incessant jealousies with France, and disputes with Turkey.

On a division, the resolution was carried by a narrow majority of 3, the numbers being—for, 135; against, 132. This result was hailed with much opposition cheering.

SUPPLY—MAYNOOTH.

On the motion for going into committee of supply, Mr. SPOONER moved, as an amendment, that a select committee should be appointed to inquire into certain circumstances connected with the proceedings and report of the Maynooth Commissioners.

Mr. HORSMAN stated that sufficient inquiry had already been offered by the Government, and refused by Mr. Spooner. He opposed the amendment.

After a prolonged and confused discussion, the House divided—for Mr. Spooner's amendment, 97; for the original motion, 76; majority against the Government, 21.

The House adjourned shortly before 2 o'clock.

MONDAY, JULY 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

The Earl of CLARENDON, in answer to Lord Airlie, said that the Government were fully alive to the importance of maintaining the defence of the country around Erzeroum and Kars. Last summer, they sent to Kars General Williams, a very distinguished officer, who, by his unwearied zeal and perseverance, had succeeded in maintaining the spirit of the Turkish army, had reformed many abuses, and placed the town in a creditable state of defence.

PICTURES AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE.

Lord ST. LEONARDS called the attention of the Government to the recent robbery of one of the pictures from the collection, and stated that he had been

informed that in order to prevent similar robberies, all the pictures had been screwed to the walls. This plan, however, might, in the event of a fire, lead to the total destruction of the pictures.

Earl GRANVILLE said that orders had been given that a strict inquiry should be instituted into the subject of the robbery, and a reward offered for the discovery of the missing picture.

Lord MONTAGUE took occasion to point out the absence of any precaution at Marlborough House to protect from fire the Vernon Collection of pictures.

Earl GRANVILLE said that every precaution had been taken against accidents by fire in Marlborough House, and also that a more satisfactory mode of showing the Vernon Collection of pictures was under the consideration of the Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW WRITS.

New writs were ordered to be issued for the Boroughs of Southwark and Marylebone, for the election of members in the room of Sir W. Molesworth and Sir B. Hall; the former having accepted the office of one of her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and the latter that of Chief Commissioner of Works.

AUSTRIAN TACTICS.

Mr. DISRAELI asked Lord John Russell his authority for his statement of Thursday last, that one of the main reasons for our expedition to the Crimea was the refusal of Austria to cross the Pruth?

Lord J. RUSSELL replied, that he had made the statement from a general recollection of the communications which had taken place between England and Austria. In reply to a further question from Mr. DISRAELI as to the impression on the mind of the Noble Lord at the head of the Government on the subject,

Lord PALMERSTON said he had always been of opinion that the Crimea was the spot in which the heaviest blow could be given to the power of Russia in the East.

Mr. LAING said he would call the attention of the House to the Austrian Conference papers, lately published, on the first favourable opportunity.

TURKISH LOAN.

Mr. WORTLEY expressed his regret that the House should have been taken by surprise on Friday night. When he left the House about 8 o'clock, it was distinctly understood on all sides that no division was to be taken on the subject. He admitted the House had a right to discuss, and even to refuse, the loan, and he confessed there were serious objections to the mode in which the loan was contracted; but still the political considerations were such as to have outweighed everything else. He did not fear the endangering of the French alliance, but he regretted the vote, as he feared it would encourage the friends of Russia. He was not surprised that the peace party should have opposed the motion, but he confessed he did wonder that the party opposite, who had pledged themselves to a vigorous prosecution of the war, should have given a vote which was calculated to weaken it.

Mr. BRIGHT denied that the House was taken by surprise, and he could not understand how a gentleman who had himself left the House should censure those that remained to do their duty. But he believed it was a favourite Ministerial doctrine that free discussion was an inconvenience during war, to be put down as much as possible. He strongly resented the interference of the press, which had attempted to bully members out of their votes on this subject; and he called upon the House, whether they voted right or wrong, at least to show that they were not to be browbeaten by the press.

Mr. SERJEANT SHEE defended his vote in favour of the loan, and characterised the arguments of Mr. Gladstone on Friday night as containing direct insults both upon Turkey and France.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY said the question should not be looked upon in a merely financial point of view, but politically; and thus viewing it he thought the measure advisable, for it would be well to go even the length of supplying Turkey with money, to enable her to act more energetically.

Mr. ALCOCK said, in giving his vote against the motion, he was entirely guided by the force of arguments. He looked upon it as a pitiful proceeding, and was of opinion that we should at once give to Turkey two-and-a-half millions of the money, and let France give the remainder.

Mr. RICARDO had opposed the proposition, because he was opposed to our once again entering upon a system of subsidies.

Sir DE LACY EVANS believed the division had come upon the House by surprise. He eulogised highly the energetic conduct of Turkey, and the honour which characterised her financial engagements.

Mr. LAYARD thought the conduct of Mr. Gladstone in respect to the Turkish loan was unwise, unjust, unstatesmanlike, and unpatriotic. Had the resolution been rejected, the consequences would have been most serious; St. Petersburg would have been illuminated, and the Right Hon. Gentleman would have been responsible for the distrust it would have given rise to in Turkey as to our sincerity in the war. People in this country were mistaken as to the resources of Turkey, military and otherwise; and it was to be remembered that she was less in debt than any country in Europe.

Mr. GLADSTONE said there could have been no surprise, for Mr. Layard himself had paired off with a friend of his, clearly showing that he, at all events, expected a division. He reminded the House, that of all the members who had spoken, no one, except the two members of the Government, had said one word in favour of the joint guarantee, which was the most important part of the whole question. Not one unofficial man had expressed his approval of the proposed arrangement, and he entreated the Chancellor of the Exchequer to consider well, and to see if by negotiation some of the more objectionable features of the position might be got rid of before going into committee.

Mr. LAING said he knew of no pre-concert on Friday night, and did not regret the vote he had given, as he believed it would give a wholesome caution to the Government to avoid entering upon a course of expenditure of which no one could see the end.

Mr. CAYLEY said he had given his vote on Friday night in favour of the resolution, thinking it very undesirable that the Government should go out of office at the present period of the session. Indeed, our constitutional mode of Government had already received this session one shock in the eyes of foreign powers, and it could scarcely afford to have its prestige lowered by a second.

After some observations from Mr. Crossley, Mr. Muntz, and Mr. Phillips, leave was given to bring in a bill.

OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

Mr. PALK called upon the Government to give some explanation of the measures they were taking to reinforce the army in the Crimea. He contrasted the immense forces under arms in 1813 with the present state of things, when our army was 40,000 men under the estimate voted by the House. For this Ministers were themselves responsible, as no encouragement was given to gentlemen to raise regiments or companies.

Mr. PEEL declined to give any information, which, he said, would only serve the purposes of the enemy. He might state that the English force in the Crimea was never so strong as at the present moment, and there was a considerable reserve at Malta. There were now about 4,000 men in the Foreign Legion, and to see if by negotiation some of the more objectionable features of the position might be got rid of before going into committee.

Mr. CAYLEY said he had given his vote on Friday night in favour of the resolution, thinking it very undesirable that the Government should go out of office at the present period of the session. Indeed, our constitutional mode of Government had already received this session one shock in the eyes of foreign powers, and it could scarcely afford to have its prestige lowered by a second.

After some further discussion, the House divided on the motion, that the Speaker should leave the chair. The numbers were,—For the committal of the Bill, 121; against it, 40; majority, 81.

The Speaker then left the chair, and the House went into committee on the Bill, but Mr. CAIRNS immediately moved that the chairman should report progress, and the discussion on this motion was proceeding when, at 4 o'clock, the House adjourned for two hours.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

Mr. WILSON, in reply to Mr. Hume, said that the fourpenny postage stamps for the conveyance of letters from this country to France would be issued on July 31. It was not the intention of the Government to issue eightpenny stamps.

RE-ASSEMBLING OF PARLIAMENT.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Major Reed, stated that the Government would consider it their duty to summon Parliament together at any time during the usual legislative recess when diplomatic or other contingencies might occur, so as to render a meeting of the House expedient.

THE HANGING PRISONERS.

Sir CHARLES WOOD, in reply to Sir H. Willoughby, said he received a letter from Lieutenant Geneste, which, with the other papers, he would lay before the House. The Russians refused to liberate the prisoners.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

The discussion on the papers lately printed respecting the Vienna Conferences, was fixed for Friday, August 3.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Sir G. GREY moved the education vote of £296,521, in addition to £100,000 already voted on account. He stated that the increase in the vote for this year was about £34,000.

MR. BARNEYS' VOTE.

Mr. Ewart, Lord J. Manners, and Mr. Barrow defended the grants for education.

Sir J. PAKINGTON thought that the amount asked was by no means exorbitant.

Mr. MALLIAPPAN opposed the vote. He declared the grant to be practically useless. It had never reached the dangerous classes, which was the original object of the grant; but it had enabled the small tradesmen and yeomen to save the money which they would otherwise have spent in educating their own children.

Mr. CONDEN accepted the present grant with thankfulness as supplying something towards the necessary requirements, but considered it the duty of Parliament to devise some scheme of universal instruction which should be applicable to the whole country, and acceptable to every class of the community.

The amendment was ultimately withdrawn, and the vote agreed to as originally proposed.

The vote of £215,200 for education in Ireland was also passed after some consultation.

One or two other votes having been agreed to, the House resumed, and having disposed of some other business, was counted out at 20 minutes past 2.

THE CRIMEA.

On Thursday last, Lord Panmure received the following communication from the Crimea, dated July 25, 5 P.M.—

Cholera has not increased since my last report, and the army continues in satisfactory health.

LATEST MARKET INTELLIGENCE.

The Consol Market, on Friday, was rather flat, and the Three per Cents. were done at 90 $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$. In corn, rather more business was doing, and fine wheats were rather dearer. The cotton trade was dull. In oils, very few sales were reported, but tallow, on the spot, advanced to 55s. 6d. per cwt., with a firm market.

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Containing the Numbers of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES for July, sewed in a neat Wrapper, Price 9d., is now ready, and may be procured of all Booksellers and Newsmen.

DELTA, who purchased a stamped copy of our paper, and posted the same to a friend at Islington, and for which one shilling postage was demanded, is informed that Islington, being within the three miles' distance of the General Post Office, the impressed stamp is of no avail; we should have supposed, however, that only the ordinary newspaper postage of 1d., or at most 2d., would have been charged, and fear that the paper must have had some writing on it beyond the mere address to have caused this preposterous rate of postage to be demanded.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1855.

THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICE.

UNLESS some new evidence of a quite unexpected character turns up, we are afraid we shall have to pronounce the commission on this subject very injurious to the character of the constabulary. It is so important that people should think well of the body—their duties are so difficult—and such scenes as the Hyde Park ones are so trying—that we certainly wished the force well through the inquiry from the beginning. But what then? Witness after witness has come forward; violence after violence has been reported; the most shameful brutality has been narrated with the most harrowing details; and what are we to say? The "cause of order" is no doubt supported by the police, but then it must not be disgraced by them. The peace of the metropolis is an important matter; but at this time of day, we cannot have it entrusted to men who display, in suppressing riots, greater ruffianism than the rioters themselves, and who seem to maul indiscriminately, with that peculiar love of mauling which the country pays them to suppress in the savage part of the population. We have, in fact, read the daily reports of the evidence taken by this commission, with great regret and great annoyance. Our wish was, that they would come well out of it; our opinion now is, that unless the witnesses are false to a man, we must pronounce the conduct of the police scandalous, violent, and cowardly.

The evidence, altogether, has been furnished by a body of persons of very different classes: some, spectators; some, sufferers—very proper as authorities in the matter. Here and there, a bruise may have coloured a man's evidence as it had his body, but generally we see no traces of its feeling, and the police would scarcely argue that they are so unpopular that the public, as a general rule, would speak against them without provocation. On looking through the evidence, day by day, one is struck by the similarity of tone. The witness goes to the spot from idle curiosity, or some such motive, falls into the neighbourhood of a row, and is beaten, kicked, and bruised by a man in a blue uniform. Sometimes he has reasoned with the apparition,—sometimes he has laughed,—now he is walking with his wife,—now he is strolling by himself:—but in one thing he has fared like his neighbours—and been well cudgelled. But with cudgelling only he has not in many cases got off; he usually goes through another phase in the history—he is carried by a violent churl to a den of drunkards and ordinary criminals, and passes the night in filth, noise, and misery. Such is the common story. It is varied by a flash of humour, at times, when the man who has bruised him condescends to laugh at him, and a dash of the "Beggar's Opera" mingles itself with the sport of the quarter-staff. Of course, all this is the pleasant topic of the day at Scotland Yard, when the campaign is talked over, and X 100 tells how the field was won. We do not suppose that the gallant inspector or brave private cares one snuff for anything but the pleasure of the reminiscence; but our business is with the public, who, without enjoying the jest, feel the infamy of these proceedings. We shall call, here and there, some characteristic bits of the evidence; and then we shall damp the merriment of the stations by suggesting such prompt dismissals as the case demands. Dogberry is a very amusing fellow in the hands of the dramatist, and indeed amusement is all the good the world expects from a fool, generally speaking; but Dogberry savage, Dogberry murderous—when blood has awakened the wild beast in him, and excitement confused the easily confused head—is a kind of official which the world will not readily hand over to the disposal of Mr. Commissioner MAYNE.

We never yet quite understood how MAYNE acquired the power of forbidding assemblages by his own act, or why he assumed the airs of a dictator. But waiving that—and even waiving the question how much of the mischief was caused by MAYNE's proclamation—let us come to what we have before us of the experience of persons who saw the riots. We shall illustrate our remarks in such space as we have to spare, from the evidence.

The very first day, we had Mr. MAIR's story. Mr. MAIR parried a blow struck at him because he could not get back through a crowd four or five deep; "370 A" (we hope the authorities have the number,) "then called out, an assault!" Mr. MAIR was collared, clothes torn, &c., and carried to a filthy "cell." Mr. BRUCE, a barrister, saw this attack, "saw twenty or thirty police strike everybody indiscriminately." After the barrister, came a builder, "the charge of the police was ferocious," was his observation. Similar evidence followed. Mr. Superintendent HUGHES was seen giving directions before one of these "charges," and that at a time when nobody was even shouting. Of course, HUGHES is to be held responsible for this part of the affair; and we should be sorry if our readers thought we wanted to have the poor mass of men held responsible, in any case, where nothing was left to their individual judgments.

On the second day, Mr. AULNEY, a military man, deposed that he saw a policeman "savagely poking his truncheon into the stomach of a boy." On the same day, we learned that 174 A, signalised himself by beating a boy on the forehead, and beating him after he fell. A poor cripple told us, (a man wounded before Sebastopol in the naval brigade) that, cripple as he was, he was struck by 349 A. "Was quite sure 349 A, knew he was a cripple, but continued," &c. We think it likely that 349 A did know—and it is always safe to

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hit a cripple. This day we had a revelation to the effect that persons offering their evidence at the police stations in these cases, were not listened to. (The names of the inspectors refusing should be given.) But a fine, characteristic picture of a man on a chestnut horse, calling, "Use your staves, men!" calls our attention. A "charge" followed, no doubt directed against boys, cripples, and the most harmless part of the mob, as seems to be the rule. A Mr. MAXWELL was brutally struck; and 345 A, (according to the evidence of Mr. SMITH, wine merchant of Liverpool), struck several ladies across the back. 345 A, followed up his actions by appropriate language, for when Mr. SMITH remonstrated, he threatened to "knock his head off." But having mauled the ladies, 345 A, in a glow of enthusiasm from his triumphs, spared Mr. SMITH.

The third day's sitting brought us some equally infamous details. Among them was the statement of a reporter, named UTTING—a statement so important respecting Mr. Superintendent HUGHES, that we have the greatest pleasure in recommending it to the attention of the Home Secretary:

"In the course of the day saw hundreds of men struck. It was in consequence of the example of Inspector HUGHES that the people were treated in such a manner. On one occasion he rode up to the railings, and, standing up in his stirrups, struck savagely with his riding-whip at the people; distinctly saw him strike several well-dressed ladies. (Great sensation). The bystanders expressed their indignation at such brutality by crying out, 'Pull him off his horse and throw him into the river!'

We will not spoil this by a word of comment. The rest of the day's evidence comprised the usual material: "heads bleeding" . . . "blows on the back" . . . "rushing at boys" . . . "cheek smashed in" . . . "brutal and vile language" . . . "boy kicked under the rails by 385 A" . . . "cries of shame," &c. As we said before, the details are rather sickening, and they grow wearisome from their uniformity. The subsequent sittings need not be reported in detail from this peculiarity. But in the evidence taken on the fifth day, the statement of PICKENPERCK, a German engineer, deserves particular observation. On his way home from Park Street, he met a body of police who "knocked him about and cut his head open," without the smallest provocation. If this, the last and worst of this long series of low and foul outrages, goes unpunished, farewell to the respectability of the London police!

Now, what is to be done after all these revelations? We must first know more distinctly than Sir R. MAYNE seems inclined we should do, *what orders the police had on this particular day*, and do our best to get at the heads of the affair before punishing the subordinates. We must then insist on the dismissal of the particular individuals whose names are already before us, as the most violent actors in these scandalous exhibitions of mean passion and brute force; and having rid our public service of a good sprinkling of bullies and dastards, we must trust to the force for better behaviour the next time a blundering executive provides such an unfortunate opportunity.

THE COURT.

THE QUEEN held a Council at Osborne on Sunday last.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL had an audience of the Queen, and resigned his seals of office as one of her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

SIR WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart., was sworn one of the Queen's Principal Secretaries of State, and received from her Majesty his seals of office.

SIR WILLIAM MAULF, Knt., was, by command of the Queen, sworn one of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, accompanied by the Count of Flanders and the Princess Charlotte of Belgium, left Osborne on Monday morning to return to the Continent.

HER MAJESTY AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT embarked in the Fairy, with the King, and accompanied his Majesty to Portsmouth, where a special train was waiting to convey his Majesty by the Brighton and South Coast line to Dover.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO PARIS.—Apartments are being prepared for Queen Victoria, at the Palace of St. Cloud, where her Majesty is expected to arrive on the 16th or 17th of August. The sleeping room will be arranged to form a counterfeit presentment of the Royal bedchamber at Windsor Castle. Forty of the finest pictures in the Louvre are to be removed from the Museum, and conveyed to St. Cloud to deck the walls of the sleeping-room. Her Majesty will be accompanied by a small suite of the lords and ladies of her household, and by the three eldest of the Royal children.

SHOCKING TERMINATION TO A MARRIAGE IN FRANCE.

A YOUNG farmer named Peyron, about 25 years of age, in the department of the Rhone, was married a few weeks ago to a neighbour's daughter. The young people had been long attached to each other; but the parents of the bride had refused their consent on account of the strangeness of conduct occasionally observed in the young man, who otherwise was a most eligible match, his parents being comparatively well off, and the son himself generally of exemplary conduct. His passion for the girl became at length so violent, that he declared he could not exist without her, and his mother, fearing from his manner that he intended suicide, went to the parents of the young woman, and, after some entreaty, prevailed upon them to agree to the match. Young Peyron at once recovered his spirits, the young woman was delighted, and the marriage was celebrated with all the rustic pomp and ceremony common in that part of the provinces, concluding with a grand dinner, and the inevitable ball. The gaieties were kept up until daylight, when the company separated. The new married couple were lodged in one wing of the farm-house, separate from the main building; but, in a short time after they had retired, cries were heard from the nuptial chamber. At first they were unnoticed; but at length they increased to fearful shrieks, and the father and mother, alarmed, hastened to the room, followed by the farm servants. The cries were by the time they arrived changed to scarcely audible groans from the poor girl; and on breaking open the door, she was found in the agonies of death—her bosom torn open, and lacerated in the most horrible manner, and the wretched husband in a fit of raving madness and covered with blood, having actually devoured a portion of the unfortunate girl's breast. A cry of horror burst from all present, and he was dragged from the room after a most violent resistance, it taking no less than 6 men to hold him down. Aid was instantly sent for, but before the doctor could reach the spot, the unhappy victim was no more. Young Peyron was put under treatment, and a strait-waistcoat was attempted to be put upon him; but his struggles and screams were such that the doctor, apprehensive that he should expire in the assistants' hands, ordered them to desist. The unfortunate man had by this time become so weak, that he was easily conveyed to bed, and died at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, without having for one moment recovered his consciousness. It was then re-collected, in answer to searching questions by a physician, that somewhere about 5 years previously he had been bitten by a strange dog, and taken precautions against hydrophobia, although it was never satisfactorily shown that the dog was really mad; no ill consequences resulting from the bite, his friends concluded that it would come to nothing, and the incident had been altogether forgotten. It was considered by the doctor that the circumstances preceding the marriage, and the excitement of the occasion itself, had roused the latent virus, which had so long lain dormant in the blood, and led to the terrible outbreak of frenzy which had ended so tragically.

Others of the profession were of opinion that there was no hydrophobia whatever in the case, but rooted insanity, and that it was shown to exist by the occasional aberrations of the unfortunate young man, as before mentioned; and that his diseased temperament, and too violent passions, powerfully acted on by the circumstances, led to the fatal consequences narrated above.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I AM inclined to believe that if Dr. Hassall belonged to a club, he would be poisoned by the steward. I advance this opinion after due deliberation and observation. I have watched the unfortunate persons engaged in that capacity at the Megatherium and the Roscius, of both of which I am a member, and can conscientiously state that such bullying, badgering, and general worry was never before endured. At the former, Jawkins is pre-eminent: he has read every word of the evidence, he knows what is put into the pickles, and what into the anchovies; he tastes the humble house-beer as though it were a curious wine, and smacks his lips after each sip to detect the quassia, cocculus indicus, &c., though, Heaven knows, the liquid supplied to us and included in the "table," is of a light clarity nature, utterly incapable of adulteration. Seriously speaking, these revelations are worth the attention of the Legislature, which should take measures to prevent our wholesale poisoning at the hands of our tradespeople. Our sewerage and drainage are being improved, our graveyards are closed, many sanitary measures are in progress, and the demon cholera has till the present period deferred his visit, which threatened to be annual; let us then desist from preying upon each other after the fashion of the *animacule* in the microscope, and let us endeavour to disprove the truth of the old adage that "one man's meat is another man's poison." Curiously enough, the article which for such a length of time has proved a subject of mirth for funny men, and of sarcasm for serious persons and proper spinster aunts, tobacco, has been found more pure and less adulterated than any tested by the *Lancet* commissioners, so that the old joke of the cigars "imported direct from Havannah by the Hammersmith omnibus," has virtually lost all its point and pungency. Before dismissing the subject, we would call attention to the fact that it is proposed to reward Dr. Hassall with a testimonial; he has proved himself a most decided public benefactor; and those who have freely subscribed large sums towards rewarding a successful railway speculator, or a clever actor, singer, or dancer, (already sufficiently well paid,) would do well to weigh his claims with those which they were so anxious to honour.

Was it by a "fluke," a surprise, or a well-laid plot, that the Turkish loan was nearly beaten in the House of Commons last week? I am no politician—a Lounger is ever too idle to trouble himself with vexed questions and angry debates—but I know enough to feel that when, for the merest party purposes, a set of men, who hold their seats in Parliament by the will and by the election of the English people, endeavour to overthrow a measure which has already been adopted by our firmest Ally, they are acting in an un-English and unpatriotic manner. Depend upon it, the next general election, which is dreadfully feared and shunned by present sitting Members, will bar the door of St. Stephens to many who now have the right of *entrée*!

Lounger though I am, I have an acute feeling on social questions, and I watch the progress of the Beer Act, and the Hyde Park Sunday Committee, "the three Recorders rolled into one," to paraphrase Mrs. Malaprop, with great anxiety. I rather think that the people have what is commonly called the "pull," in both. None of the magistrates can agree as to what is a *bond-fide* traveller; and each contradicts the other with delicious acrimony. Sir Robert Carden enacts the part of Mawmorn with great success, and would wish to see the Maine Liquor Law enforced in England, he himself being specially exempted from its rigour; while the once hilarious Mr. George Cruikshank rides his hobby into the midst of the Commission, and exhibits his prints of "The Bottle" as proofs of the degeneracy of the age! Witnesses before the Recorders prove that on the 1st of July, the police assaulted indiscriminately men, women, and children, the silent and the noisy; that the question of "Who stole the goose?" was answered by laying open the head of the querist, a little boy ten years of age, and that Mr. Superintendent Hughes rode about on a chestnut horse, "pale with rage," "behaving like a madman," hounding on his subordinates, and striking at people with his whip. Perhaps the worst feature in the case is the after-treatment of those taken into custody. Taking into consideration the heat and excitement of the moment, a great deal can be pardoned; but, when we find that the captives were immersed in cells reeking with filth, and calculated to hold only a third of the number crammed into them—that all offers of bail were refused, and that even at the Police Courts witnesses were refused admission until it was understood on which side their testimony was to be given,—our English blood rises within us, and we demand that the decision of the Commissioners shall be carried out, as we must admit their inquiry has been, without respect to persons and authorities.

I notice an account of the Dunmow procession in the "Herald," of Thursday, in which a full description of the pageant was given; though at the time it was printed nothing had actually taken place! Dear old Mrs. Gamp! now, she is even incorrect in dates, and is growing, what she never has been yet, beforehand with the world!

All your readers who take an interest in the fine arts, will have seen Mr. Ruskin's pamphlet upon the late Exhibition of the Royal Academy, in which many who are regarded by the world as leading men, are severely handled. Among these is David Roberts, and the facetious have made up a good story about him. They say that Ruskin wrote to Roberts, stating that he had merely expressed his feelings about his picture in a critical point of view; but he bore him no ill-will, and that he trusted their friendship would not be diminished. Mr. Roberts is stated to have replied, "Dear Ruskin—When we meet, I intend to pull your nose; but I trust, after that, our friendship will not be diminished!" It is scarcely necessary to add, that this entire story is a fabrication, though it is creating a great deal of amusement in art circles.

It will be recollect that a short time since a great outcry was raised about the scarcity of rags and the high price of paper, and also that the proprietors of the "Times" offered a reward of £1,000 to the inventor of any substance that would effectually answer their purpose. I have this week seen some specimens of paper made from wood pulp, which appeared admirably adapted for receiving typographical impressions, and which can be manufactured at a cost averaging 30 per cent. less than the rag pulp in use.

Mr. G. H. LEWES, the "Vivian" of the "Leader" newspaper, the "Slingsby Lawrence" of the "Game of Speculation," "Chain of Events," and other Lyceum pieces, the author of "Ranthorpe," "Rose, Blanche, and Violet," &c., has nearly concluded a Life of Goethe, from which much is expected, Mr. Lewes ranking, deservedly, as one of the first German scholars amongst us.

When the "Quarterly Review" steps down from its pedestal, and descends to recollect that there are other readers in England than those who are intensely high-art, it is generally more entertaining and pleasant than any other periodical. In the last number there is a delightfully chatty, amusing, and lively article, and yet one evincing extensive research and erudition, upon "Advertisements." The writer has traced as far back as the seventeenth century, and follow up his researches until the present day, has worked out a species of history from the "second column." Professor Holloway is said to spend thirty thousand a year on advertisements; Messrs. Moses, Rowland (Kalydor), De Jonghe (cod-liver oil), and Norton (camomile pills), ten thousand each. If one do not put implicit faith in these very round numbers. A new form of advertising has been adopted at the railway stations, upon which enormous sums are spent. Most of the railway stations in the kingdom are rented by Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son, of the Strand, and sub-let at so much a foot.

We are doing our best to distinguish ourselves in Paris. Lord Mayor Moon set the example with his "never forgetting the reminiscences," &c.; and now Mr. H. Cole, C.B., rising at a dinner given by the Foreign Commissioners of the Paris Exhibition to the representatives of the press, returns thanks in a speech read from a paper in his hand, and even then full of grammatical blunders given forth in a good London accent.

Mr. Albert Smith has received a letter from Jean Tairraz, head guide of Chamouni, utterly denying the truth of the report that the body of Jacques Balmat, one of De Saussure's guides, had been found in a crevice of the ice.

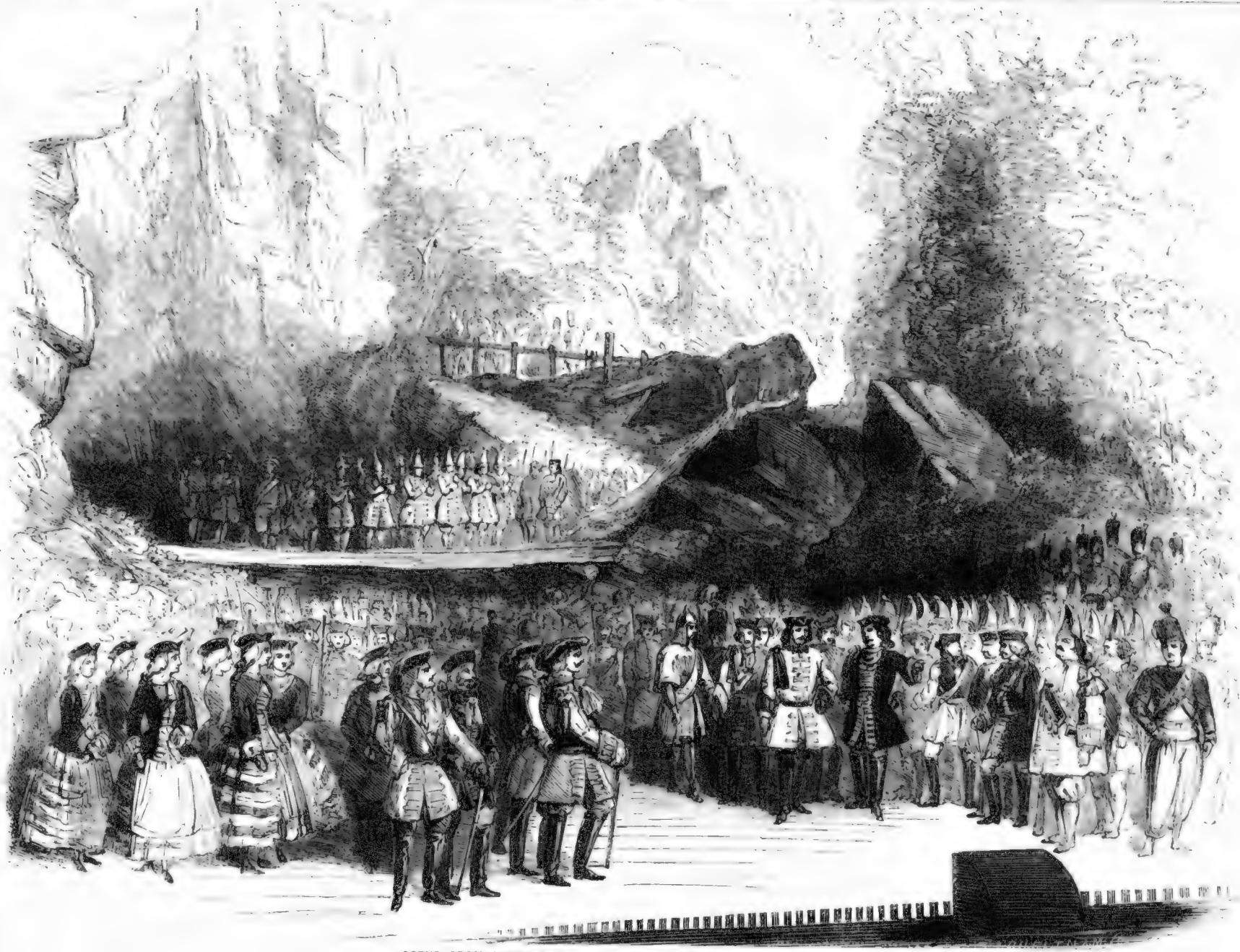
Benefits and "last appearances" foretell the rapidly approaching close of the theatrical and operatic season. Grisi and Mario take farewell to-night in the "Huguenots." The Keeleys leave the Adelphi for the present, and Mr. Wright returns. Mr. Charles Mathews is now in the provinces, but returns in September to undertake the stage-management of Drury Lane.



THE TRIAL FOR THE DUNMOW FLITCHES AT THE TOWN HALL.



THE PROCESSION FORMING OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL, DUNMOW



SCENE FROM L'ETOILE DU NORD, AT THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.



HONDSITCH SUNDAY FAIR.—(SKETCHED BY MC'CONNELL.)

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—L'ETOILE DU NORD.

The directors of the Royal Italian Opera have been fortunate this season in having two new operas to produce, either of which was sufficient to have ensured them crowded houses during several months. Accordingly, the success of the earlier part of the season having been secured by the production of *Il Trovatore*, the operatic campaign will be brought to a triumphant close by the representation of *L'Étoile du Nord*. The Italian Opera of Paris existed for an entire season on Verdi's new work, while that of Meyerbeer has been enriching the Opera Comique during the last eighteen months. It would be strange, then, if a theatre were not prosperous, after bringing out *Il Trovatore* and *L'Étoile du Nord* in the same year, and, above all, with the perfection which has characterised the execution of both works at the Royal Italian Opera.

The *libretto* of *L'Étoile du Nord* is by Scribe, who is also the author of *Robert le Diable*, the *Huguenots*, and the *Prophète*. As it was intended for the theatre of the Opera Comique, where the dialogue is spoken, instead of being given in recitative, the author has written one of those improbable operatic dramas, for which he is celebrated, and the greater part of which consists of the said dialogue. This has been curtailed in the Italian version, and afterwards set to the required recitative by the composer—an alteration which prolongs the representation by nearly an hour, and which, in spite of the admirable manner in which the musical additions are written, tend to make the Opera somewhat heavy.

M. Scribe had already turned to dramatic account blindness, in the *Muette de Portici*; sleep-walking, in the *Sonnambule*; and clairvoyance, in *Trêne, ou le Magnétisme*. In *L'Étoile du Nord*, he has taken another exceptional state of humanity, and has exhibited to us the inconveniences of habitual intoxication. The dramatic scaffolding in which Meyerbeer has had to construct his music, is as follows:

Peter the Great is working as a journeyman in one of the dockyards of Finland—an *incognito* which his drinking propensities enable him to assume with considerable facility. Here he establishes an intimacy with Danilowitz, an intelligent pieman, (the founder of the Menschikoff family) and falls in love with Catherine, a vender of arrack, Dantzig brandy, and all the liquid fires of the North. Peter, who drinks like the sand of the desert, longs for her appearance as the dying plant longs for rain, when M. Scribe at once breaks down in his moral, for Peter's acquaintance with Catherine, which terminates so happily for both parties, is cemented in friendship, heightened into passion, and transformed into love by the very perseverance with which he cultivates his favourite vice.

Besides having a genuine love for Catherine and brandy, Peter has a somewhat affected taste for flute playing, which is explained by the fact of Catherine's brother George being his professor. Catherine's mother, in her last dying speech, has enjoined her to watch over her brother, and, accordingly, when he falls a victim to the military conscription, she assumes male attire, and takes his place, to the intense satisfaction of Prascovia, to whom the cowardly and flute-professing George was on the point of being married.

ACT II.—The Czar Peter, in the *incognito* of Captain, and accompanied by his aide-de-camp Danilowitz (the former pieman), is drinking and making temporary love to two *rivalières*; Catherine is on guard outside the tent. She recognises Peter, is enraged at his inconstancy, and when ordered not to peep into the tent by Gritzenko, his corporal, and the personification of military discipline, disobeys, and at length strikes him. Sentenced to death for insubordination, she appeals personally to Peter, who in his drunkenness fails to recognise her. Her last words as she leaves the tent, are as soda water to the intoxicated Czar, who becomes restored to sobriety, only to discover that he has ordered the object of his affections to be perforated with bullets. Catherine, however, plunges into a river, and may or may not have been killed, as Gritzenko, who imagines Peter is annoyed at her escape, assures him that he fired at her whilst she was swimming away, and that he feels sure that his shot has taken effect. Before jumping into the river, Catherine has produced some papers which she desires may be forwarded to the Czar, and which enable him to detect and quell a formidable conspiracy.

ACT III. The Czar is now the Czar, Danilowitz is his Minister, Catherine is mad; but Peter's flute, and a representation of the scenes of the first act in the Finland Dockyard, restore her to reason. She throws herself on Peter's neck, faints, and, during her momentary insensibility, is clothed with the robes, and crowned with the tiara of the Czarina. If Catherine had not been mad at the commencement of the act, the means adopted for rendering her sane would certainly have maddened her.

The music which Meyerbeer has written to the above story, is the most dramatic, and altogether the best, which he has composed. The ballet music of *Robert la Diable* and *le Prophète* were sufficient to show with what success he would be likely to treat a libretto of the Opera Comique class. But few persons were convinced that the composer of the duet in the fourth act of *les Huguenots*, and of the coronation scene in *le Prophète*, would have been able to surpass Auber in his own peculiar domain, as he has undoubtedly surpassed all other living composers—with the distinct exception of Verdi—in the production of serious opera. Rossini we put out of the question, as he can scarcely be said to have written contemporaneously with Meyerbeer; besides which, as a producer he no longer exists.

When we state that the music of *L'Étoile du Nord* is peculiarly dramatic, we must not be understood to mean that the Opera contains any great situations of life and death, illustrated by orchestral explosions; but that the music of each character has its distinct *cachet*.

Among the distinguished *morceaux* present, we remarked the introduction, Danilowitz' air, the drinking chorus (which has some excellent effects of instrumentation), Catherine's charming couplets, the duet between Peter and Catherine, Catherine's Ronde Bohémienne (which has already become popular), and Prascovia's air, with chorus, and the prayer and barcarolle which end the first act—and than which Meyerbeer has written nothing more beautiful, and which were sung to perfection by Madame Bosio. As in *Robert* and the *Huguenots*, the first act contains the most attractive music, although the quintet in the second, and Catherine's *scena* in the third act, would probably find more favour with musicians who admire Meyerbeer for his wonderful science and skill, rather than for his melodious inspirations. All his qualities, however, are exhibited in Catherine's prayer and barcarole, to which we have already called attention, and in the pretty *rondo*, with its ferocious obligato of Kalmucks, in which the voice of Lablache, as Gritzenko, strongly preponderates, forming a striking contrast to the pure soprano of Bosio, and forcibly reminding us of Una, accompanied by the lion. The air sung by Danilowitz is needlessly difficult, unless Meyerbeer intended to place the part, slight as it is, beyond the reach of all but first-rate tenors. Gardoni—of whose powers of liveliness we have considerable doubts—gave it without spirit; but was more fortunate with the charming apostrophe to the girls of the dockyard, which is *encadré* within it. Formes, as Peter, acted and sang throughout the Opera conscientiously and magnificently. The part of Prascovia, which is almost as difficult as that of Catherine, was sung by Madame Marai, who has a success as *seconda donna*, which many ladies in the more elevated position might envy.

The quaint and original duet for the *vivandières* in the second act, which in Paris was the most successful thing in the opera, is, in London, a comparative failure. Madame Radersdorf, and Mlle. Baur did their best, (and Mlle. Baur's "best" was really very good); but unfortunately for the success of the composition, which requires action and expression as well as vocalisation, these ladies are German instead of being French.

The finale of the second act, in which Meyerbeer shows us how three distinct airs may be combined without injury to any one of them—and indeed without injury to any one at all, except those who happen to hear them executed, is a fine specimen of ingenuity and bad taste, which sends the aristocratic mob into raptures. Doubtless the final effect (which would suffice to demolish the walls of a thousand Jerichos), is skilfully prepared, but it has to us all the appearance of an offering to those persons who can understand nothing in Meyerbeer's operas but the *spectacle* and the noise.

We cannot conclude without again referring to the admirable performance of Lablache, whose singing and acting are worthy of his very best days.

The opera is magnificently put upon the stage, and is decidedly the greatest success the Royal Italian Opera has ever known.

OLD CLOTHES ON THE SUNDAY IN HOUNSDITCH.

If the Rev. Thomas Hugo, curate of St. Botolph, had objected to "the Sunday fair" in Houndsditch on the principle that it was held at an improper time, no sensible person could have disputed or opposed the justness of his opinion. The Sabbath mid-day is most decidedly not the fitting period for men to be haggling over the price of an old pair of breeches, or for women to be hawking second-hand bonnets about the streets, and screaming out their goods as loudly as if they were crying fish at Billingsgate. Necessity is the only excuse that can be made for transacting business on the Sunday; and even if it could be proved, that it is only on that day that the working man can spare time to make his purchases of second hand clothes, still we think that, considering the poor are all early risers, they might manage to transact their affairs considerably before 2 o'clock in the day.

But the Rev. Thomas Hugo has endeavoured to attach a charge of criminality to this Houndsditch "Fair," and in that we not only think he is wrong, but decidedly unjust. He implies that most of the goods sold there are stolen property. The best answer to this statement is, that the buildings and streets in which this "fair" is held cover more than half an acre of land, and as every inch of this land is covered with goods for sale, the robberies that supply them must increase to a very vast extent before any importance can be attached to the Rev. Gentleman's accusation.

"I maintain," writes Mr. Hugo to the "Times," "that the suppression of this horrible fair would in no wise be a curtailment of any poor man's reasonable liberty. Such suppression would, on the contrary, be a blessing to many a poor man. It would keep many, to whom poverty is no disgrace, from crime, which is. It would stop facilities for nefarious practices, and remove temptations to crime, which the very knowledge of the existence of such places and all its concentrated abominations cannot fail to suggest, to multitudes who otherwise would be honest and industrious."

To examine into these "temptations to crime," and to inquire into these "concentrated abominations," we have paid a special Sunday visit to the localities where the "fair" is held.

On that occasion many of the shops in Houndsditch were open, although it was past 12 o'clock in the day—but no business appeared to be going on. The warehouse of Mr. A. N. Weerden had its shutters down, exposing to the view a vast collection of china, chimney ornaments, artificial flowers, and concertinas. Among the china figures we recognised our old friends the Scottish shepherd, and "lassie" to match, the favourite prickly sheep and poodles, and the flower vases with the costly gilt edges. The shop of Mr. Josephs, with a similar stock in trade, was also open. A manufactory of lead pencils—such as are sold in the streets—and a sweetmeat shop, for peppermint and brandy ball drop venders, were also ready to transact business, if there had been any to do; but though the doors were open, there were no purchasers.

Nearly all the warehouses deal in Sheffield and Birmingham goods. Under most of the shop fronts is painted in large letters, "Hawkers supplied." A Mr. Alfred Davis does very extensive business with these hawkers, very often supplying with goods as many as ten thousand of them in the course of the week.

In fact, it is at these establishments that all those tempting articles; such as china, ornamental glass and crockery ware; are purchased, which are exchanged in courts and by-streets for old wearing apparel. I recently we will show, that most of the goods offered for sale in the "fair," are, instead of being stolen property, simply this old wearing apparel rubbed up, cleaned, and dressed into something like gloss and newness.

In Cutler Street, we found the "fair" at its height. It was then twelve o'clock—the best time, we were told, for viewing the proceedings. The pavement and road were blocked up with a mob of purchasers and venders. One man was carrying on his head a huge glass milk-pan, filled with pickled cucumbers, which he was crying out at one halfpenny a slice. A woman, with her arms and head laden with waistcoats of all patterns and sizes, was offering them at prices ranging from 6d. to 1s. 6d. One, of green velvet, restored to its original colour and pile by some miraculous and hidden process, we could have purchased for fifteenpence. White trousers and brown holland blouses, of the most transparent material and slightest workmanship, were being disposed of at sums varying from 9d. to 1s. A woman, half-hidden under a pile of straw bonnets, mistaking us, no doubt, for a married man, offered us a very decent-looking "Dunstable" for the small price of fourpence. Hawkers, with braces hung like rabbits from a pole, were shouting, "Buy a brace—threepence a pair;" whilst gentlemen in the jewellery line, carrying trays covered with rings, set out like butterflies in a case, were crying out, "Pick 'em and choose 'em; a gold ring for a penny." A man with lemonade cart was drawing off glasses of the soapy-looking fluid, and urging on the thirst of the multitude by declaring "that he had only one more glass left," as if the dregs possessed some peculiar and tantalising property. Trays of brown, varnished-looking cakes, and wet slices of white cocoa-nut, were being disposed of with great rapidity, as the piles of halfpence in the corners of the trays fully testified.

Nearly all the purchasers were working men, and all the venders either Jews or Irish. At a shop where the front was patched over with round caps, four or five labourers were being fitted. A man with a stuff coat was haggling with a coster-looking lad whether the price for it should be 3s. or 3s. 6d.

We turned down the turning leading to the "City Exchange." Stalls are fitted up on each side of the roadway, and overhead hangs a canopy of cloths hung out for sale, and forming a perfect avenue of wearing apparel. The dull colour of the old garments and the dirty bricks of the houses, give a miserable appearance to the place, although the sun is shining with its hottest brilliancy; and the air is filled with the stench of cloth and the breath of the mob. The first stall was covered with piles of nuts, and those leaving it are already cracking their purchases, and devouring the kernels. Next to this was stand covered with waistcoats, some white and others printed in patterns, for summer wear, besides cloth ones for everyday use, and silk, satin, and velvet ones, for high days and festivals. The prices of these were so small, that we asked the woman—to whom we explained the reason why we put the question—how she could afford to put so small a value upon them. She answered: "Well, sir, we buys them of the hawkers, or else we goes to Mr. Debenham's, in Covent Garden, and other salerooms where the pawnbrokers' unredeemed pledges is sold, and there they sells very cheap. Them with the clean white linings, such as this," and she held one up, "is a pledge, and costs as much as four shillings, which we sell for five; and this," and she held up another one, "as is stained, as you see, and is rather dirty, we buys for about fourpence or fivepence, and cleans up and sells for ninepence or a shilling, as we've luck or no;" and fearing that we should doubt her word, she called up one or two other dealers, and made them bear evidence to the truth of her statement.

At every shop, clothing of some sort or other was sold. Here were piled up columns of blue hat-boxes, whilst the shelves shine with the glossy nap and bright linings of the half-fernow gossamers. Next door the shelves were covered with boots and shoes, each pair polished up to the utmost brilliancy. Against the door-post hung a bunch of variously-coloured pocket handkerchiefs—blue, yellow, and red ones, all mixed together. The wall at the end was dressed out with the faded remains of once brilliant-tinted shawls, spread out like owls against a stable-door.

It was here that a Jewish gentleman, seeing us taking notes of the things around, stepped up to our side and offered to guide us through the recesses of the "City Exchange." He told us that he was the half-proprietor of the building, and stating that all he desired was that justice should be done, he at once cleared a passage for us through the mob that blocked up the barn-looking entrance to the building.

It was nothing more than a long shed with a roofing of planks, but the beams and woodwork were so black from the dirt of ages that they appeared to us as if charred, and we could not help asking if there had been a fire there lately. "A fire!" answered the proprietor with horror. "Why, the loft above belongs to Mr. Jacobs the curiosity dealer, and there is property in it worth thousands. Bless you, noblemen come here sometimes to purchase of him. He is in Vienna now. It's only the dirt that makes the place black."

Immediately against the doors were the jewellers' stands. On the greasy boards were placed, without arrangement, piles of watches and rings; square patches of white meerschaum bowls, heaps of brooches and earrings, and large pieces of coral glowing in the midst of the bright

golden ornaments with increased redness. A country woman was turning over the pile of watches as roughly as if they had been tobacco-boxes. Our guide told us that these trinkets were also purchased at sales, and that most of them were merely copper gold-washed. These valuables were perhaps the only things we saw, the rightful possession of which might be open to a question; we have, however, no good reason for doubting the honest obtainment of them, and can only ascribe the suspicion to the doubt that always crosses the mind when we see apparently poor people possessed of jewels.

Occupying one-third of the space against the wall was a stall for the sale of shawls, kept by a German Jewess and her two daughters. The old woman, a swarthy-featured woman, who, despite a few wrinkles, still glowed in hair as black and brilliant as her eyes, and eyes as black and quick as a Scotch terrier's, sat with crossed arms watching her girls make their gains. One of them, with heavy earrings swinging from her ears, was shouting and gesticulating with the energy of a cheap-jack at a fair. At the back, and overhead, and in front, were piles and piles of black, blue, yellow, and red shawls, some tied up like bales of wool, others spread out as at a drapers. Further on were more boots and shoes, and pocket handkerchiefs, and wearing apparel stands. Just where the light enter through the door at the back was a soda-water and ginger-beer merchant, the green glass bottles shining in a manner that, in the darkness of the place, was quite pleasant to look upon.

Overcome by the stifling heat and oppressive odour of the shed, we pushed on towards this opening. In a small court that divides the "City Exchange" from the "Exhibition Change" there were more shops and stands. At one mattresses, blankets, and bed-linen were sold, and a crowd of women standing round were examining the quality of the materials and offering their price. These women were accompanied by their husbands, dressed out in their Sunday clothes, looking on and smoking whilst their wives made the bargain. On the ground in the centre were arranged, the weather being fine, a mound as big as a hay-cock, of summer clothing, linen trousers, petticoats, jackets and dresses. A countryman, with a bundle under his arm, offered a shilling for a pair of pantaloons, and got them. The shoe-stall and hat-shop, at back, were surrounded with purchasers; we could just catch sight of a navigator holding up a small shaving-glass to see how a hat fitted, and one or two others were looking inquisitorily into the showy pink linings, to see if they could discover any defects.

"All of them," says our companion, "is brought here battered and torn by the chaps with the crockery-baskets. See what perseverance and art can do: they was bought for sixpence each, and now sells for two shillings."

We stood still for a moment to get cool before plunging into the "Exhibition Change." The public-house at the back was closed, and afforded our companion an opportunity for making a remark. He pointed first to the closed doors of the tavern, and then to a pickled-eel stand, with small lumps of fish arranged in white saucers, and said, "Nothing intoxicating about them, is there?" We agreed with him, and once more pushed forward.

The "Exhibition Change" is so called, because it has a glass roof, and was entirely built up with the materials bought up at the sale of the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park. Our companion told us the history of his purchases, and dilated upon the conveniences and freshness of the building. Compared with the dark barn we had just left, it did certainly appear like a palace. The iron cross girders and the iron columns have still upon them the paint they wore in their days of glory. Poor things! princes and lords have rubbed against and admired them, and now they are doomed to add to the seedy glories of an old clothes bazaar.

The place was crowded with purchasers—mechanics and housewives—many of whom carried the door-key in their hands. A man was offering a pair of long stockings for threepence. They were new and white, and he carried a pile of them in his arms. They were, however, some of the wretched miracles wrought by machinery, where iron wheels do more to make the goods, than the threads required to give them substance and form. Here we passed a clean-shirt stall. Three clay-coloured labourers were offering, and in time paid, ninepence each for some decent-looking shirts. Our friend observed, that such a building was a real blessing to the poor; and considering the colour of those labourers' under-linen, we readily agreed with him, but merely suggested that he should close a little earlier on the Sunday.

A coat was being fought over at a stall opposite. A mason offered three shillings, but the dealer vowed that three and sixpence was the "most" price he could afford to take. "That's one of our expressions," remarked our friend; "we always say *most* when we mean *least*—odd, isn't it?" We passed the first stay stand we had seen, but as we don't wear stays, we did not stop to examine the quality of the goods, further than to notice a coquettish blue satin pair in the back-ground, and a pile of dirty-looking ones in the front. As we were going out, we passed a mantle and a millinery stand; and at the latter we were shown another wonder in the stocking line; a pair of baby's socks to be sold for a penny; but, not being married, we refused to purchase the curiosity.

At last, tired out with dismal sight-seeing, and exhausted by the heat of the place, we made the best of our way back again into the open street. Whilst we stood for a moment to enjoy the cool air, our companion began talking. "Now, you've seen for yourself, sir, all the buyers was working-men, and the sellers Jews, and Irish, and English. You've asked the stall-keepers what questions you've liked—well, then, I hope you'll give us a fair statement of facts. If the things was robbed, couldn't a policeman come in here as well as anyone else? No, sir; we all of us tries to be as honest as times will let us. We may be poor, but poverty ain't a crime—it's merely inconvenient." And with a friendly bow, he left us.

A BLIND LEADER OF A BAND OF THIEVES.—The Paris police on Saturday arrested a band of six thieves, the chief of whom is a blind man, who have lately been committing somewhat extensive depredations. Their plan of operation was thus:—The blind man used to cause himself to be taken to mercers' shops early in the morning, while the shopmen were arranging the goods for the business of the day, and, calling for different descriptions of stufis, proceeded to examine them by the touch, boasting, as he did so, that in spite of his infirmity, he was first-rate judge, and that he was even able to distinguish colours. The shopmen, much surprised, generally gathered round him, and, while they were intently watching him, his accomplices used to slip in and carry off anything that might happen to be lying about. Once that the coup was effected, the blind man was accustomed to declare that the things presented would not suit him, and to leave without making any purchase.

Assize Intelligence.

OXFORD CIRCUIT.

ALSOP V. SERGEANT.—BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.—Two or three years ago, in that district of "Merry England," comprehended within the limits of the Oxford Circuit, there was residing a farmer of considerable respectability, named Alsop, whose progenitors had been tenants of Lord Ward for a century. This agricultural worthy had a wife in very precarious health, and a daughter named Rhoda, who was approaching that time of life, when unmarried ladies are so nervously apprehensive of being regarded as "poor old maidens." It happened, however, that in the autumn of 1852, she met with a Mr. Sergeant, who had arrived at years of legal descretion—being, indeed, somewhere about 38—no doubt a most eligible match. He lived in the vicinity; he was a builder by trade; he possessed some landed property; and he appeared so suitable in all respects, that the fair Rhoda made no very desperate attempt to avoid his addresses. To be sure, there were rumours of his having formerly, in an amatory transaction, trifled with the affections of some confiding fair one; but, doubtless, he had now grown a sterner and a wiser man, so he was received at her father's house, introduced to her friends, and acknowledged, in every way, as her suitor. After paying a number of visits, and making matters pleasant with the demoiselle, the enamoured builder screwed up courage to propose for her to her father, and the response was favourable to his glowing aspirations. For more than two years this engagement continued; the "billing and cooing," doubtless, went on after the most approved fashion, and love-letters expressive of mutual esteem passed between them. The single impediment to their union was the illness of the fiancee's mother. And matters went so far that a church was fixed upon for the performance of the ceremony. Mr. Sergeant insisting that it should take place at Northfield church, where his father before him had been married, even made arrangements for the festivities that should take place on the occasion. The children at the school were to be treated; there was to be a balloon

ascent, and other festivities of a rustic character. He also took from her a ring she usually wore, in order to get one of the same size; and wrote epistles, in which terms of the most tender sympathy and the fondest endearment were freely used. There is much, however, says the old proverb, between the cup and the lip. In July, 1854, Miss Alsop lost her mother, and no sooner did that melancholy event take place, than a change seemed to come over the spirit of the male lover's dream. Gradually cooled his affections, less frequent became his visits, and, at length, ere two months passed over, he revealed his faithlessness in a letter, which ran thus—

"I assure you I sympathise with you in your troubles, for I have felt the same myself. One above knows how great mine have been the last month, and then, after all anxiety, loss of time and rest, and through that finding my health giving way, to be accused of dishonesty and deception, and trifling with your feelings, it is certainly very hard. Your dear mother's death caused me to weigh matters over very carefully, and I found that, after all my efforts, I was acting against the will of God. I could no longer stand against the will of Him who sees further than us sinful creatures, with all our bright hopes of worldly happiness. In all our troubles we may be sure all things work together for good to them that love Him. I would have you to weigh all future affairs now, and I have no doubt you will come to the same conclusion that I have, to appreciate your own home rather than your happiness elsewhere. I thank you for all acts of kindness, and shall be happy to reward you and see you as a friend at any time."

Miss Alsop, amazed at finding her fondest hopes thus dashed, and experiencing, of course, the most poignant grief and anxiety, in her despair sent a female cousin to expostulate and to ask an explanation. The cousin went, but the only reason she could get from him was that it was the will of God. He wept in the most hypocritical manner, declared he would never marry anybody else, and if he ever married at all it should be Miss Alsop. He afterwards came to see his "scorned fair," and upon that occasion also, he, to use one of his own expressions, "wept bitterly," declared that his only reason for breaking off the matter was that it was against the will of God, and left in a state almost bordering on despair. Subsequently, however, he overcame his grief, took a different view of the matter, and led another woman to the altar. The father of Miss Alsop indignantly remonstrated, but in vain; and an action was brought to recover damages. The case was tried at Stafford on the 20th inst., before the Lord Chief Baron; and witnesses having been called and examined, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; but, taking into consideration the caprice and mutability inherent in the human heart, limited the damages to £50.

MIDLAND CIRCUIT.

RUSSELL V. WHITEHEAD—BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.—This strange case, which was tried at the March Assizes, when a verdict was given for the plaintiff, with damages of £125, again came before Mr. Justice Coleridge and a special jury at Lincoln, on the 21st inst. It was stated, on behalf of the plaintiff, that the defendant had engaged to marry her, and that, after a certain time had elapsed, he had refused to fulfil his promise. The defendant denied that he ever agreed to marry her, and issue was joined on that plea. It appears that the plaintiff is a Mrs. Russell, who lost her first husband, some four years since. During her widowhood she carried on business as a dealer in china and earthenware; and it was urged by her counsel that, relying on the defendant's promise of marriage, she had sold off her business at a loss. The defendant is a retired farmer, in good circumstances. The alleged promise of marriage was contained in some letters put in by plaintiff, which, it was averred on her behalf, had been written by the defendant. On the other side, it was contended that these letters were forgeries. The following are the very diverting epistles as read in court:—

"Wainfleet, Jen. 19, 154.

"My Dær Maria Russell,—I Will Never marrie No woman upon the herth but your Self I can A sure you of that you shall be Jound with me at All I ham worth and bee my lowfull wife becose you Are a Prudent woman and I Do Dot upon you and if I live I will make you my lowfull Wife and be for long. I will own I have been very ruff with you, but I will make your mands and so don't think no more about it know I have Promesed you this for I do love you A bove All women."

"JESUP WHITEHEAD."

The next letter was as follows:—

"Wainfleet, Feby 21 54.

"My Dær Lady,—I Received A letter from you Last Night but Cant read half. I Can Insure you that I have other Things to think of as my Son is in very great Danger, and has been so more than a Week. I have all his Work to see to, and I have been to Firsby, 10 miles, and I Must go to Thorpe this Afternoon, and Whin I Shall return I Do not know. I shall never Deseve you. I love Monney too Well to Deseve one that I Do Dot want. I must be for long. I never did nor will brack my promis. I Came to your Door 3 or 4 times, 'but there is no Chance of geten Inn since your New Neighbour Cam to live There, but I Will Cam Wen I Can say in your letter that that I Was Dull on Sunday, that is sine I thought every our was his last. I ham full of Truble I can a seur you my Deore love Mrs. Russell. So no moore at Present, from yours,

"JESSUP WHITEHEAD."

"I Though every day would have been his last he has been ill for some time."

The third letter was stated to have been written by defendant on being threatened with legal proceedings consequent upon his having married another woman:—

"Wainfleet, December 15, 1854.

"Well Mrs. Russell Do yo intend to perceed A geant Me Wy you will be like a poor Mouse A Mongst so many Cats—(loud laughter)—for I have Thousand and you have not at all. (Renewed laughter). Did Not I tell you the Night before I was married that I would pay you well if you would be still About it I went to Alford on the 8 December 54 to oulter my Will and my Boy is ded I have no one to leve my Monney to but wat as plenty I should of rembered you but now you shall not have a damed farden I now han a guen to sell All my land am A gnen to le e the town I was a feal (fool) for writen you that not [note] in your house if I had not you would have had no clame on me But I did promis to Marry you and to mack you my lowfull wife that is true and the 19 of Januery would of been the day but I am Trustee for Mrs. Byerfoot and this woman yust to meet me on A tuesday Night and her tong and her Monney Drew my Atencion the last tim I was in your house, I wanted to tell you, but I could not, for I new that you would feel it very much, becose I had carred the Mater too fare A greet deal. I own that I have don you damages in you sellin your stock of at a redree prises, and you getin all things in readnes. It was very foolish on me to do so, but I did love you, and I Do wish that I had Married you after all. (Laughter). Now, Mrs. Russells, you ad a deel better sattel it, for I have 30 or 40 thousands, and you ant a penny. I dont care a dan for the Queens laws, you poor —. You may tri your worst; you shall not have a dan farden. If I can throw you with fare means, I will with foul. I ham determined not too be hit. I never thought that you had cep my letters. I bornit your d— things. You Ad a deel better sattel—it will be a deel better for you in the end, and you need not take this letter to that long Devel—(daughter)—Mr. Miller said the gentle allusion was to Mr. Merrifield, the attorney of Mrs. Russell in the present action—it's no use, for I have thousands—meind you have no chuse in the world with Me, and wen you have read this you may Born it. I dont care for Jug or Jucry. (Laughter.)"

Mr. Miller then proceeded with the next letter of the defendant, which was as follows:—

"Wainfleet, Feby, 28, '55.

"Mrs. Russell,—I Would have forfed 4 thousands, that is halfe Wat I ham Worth, for it not to be bright it to Light I Shal Shot you as sure as you A Woman you will be Shot."

This was the case; and witnesses having been called and examined, the jury gave a verdict for the defendant.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

Benedetto Spinola, gentleman, was brought up at Marlborough Street, charged with having stolen £600, in notes and gold, the property of Emanegli Girentini, of Leicester Square.

A hand-bill was produced, headed "Felony," and offering a reward of £30 for the apprehension of the prisoner, who was described as calling himself the Marquis Benedetto Spinola, an Italian.

It was stated that the prosecutor felt, at first, inclined to forego the prosecution, as the prisoner was friend. But the proprietor of Sablonière's Hotel, Leicester Square, refused to allow the case to be compromised, as a sum of money, about £700, had been stolen in his house, and he was resolved that the affair should undergo investigation before the proper authorities.

Girentini said, when he came to London, he had in his possession about 18,000 francs. The money was in gold, in pieces of 20f. and 40f. each, and this money was afterwards exchanged for English gold and bank-notes. The money was in a leather bag, in his chamber in the Sablonière Hotel, which chamber he occupied jointly with the prisoner. The money was taken from the room, and the prisoner confessed, by letter, that he had taken it.

A letter was put in directed to the prosecutor from the prisoner. It stated that the prisoner had discovered an excellent speculation in Scotland—that he took the money in order to carry out the speculation, without asking the prosecutor's leave, because perfectly certain, had he done so, it would have been refused.

Some portion of the money was found on the prisoner, also a massive chain, worth at least 30 guineas, a gold watch and ring, and other articles of expensive jewellery, all of which, it was believed, had been purchased with the stolen money.

The interpreter said that an attempt had been made to trace the notes, but without success, as the prosecutor could not recollect the banker or bullion-dealer at which he made the exchange of foreign money for English, so as to get from him the numbers of the notes.

Application being made, the magistrate remanded the prisoner for a week.

Girentini informed the interpreter that he was the son of the ex-Minister of Piedmont.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTHWAKE.

A NUMEROUS and influential meeting of the electors of Southwark was held on Monday evening, at the Queen's Head Inn, High Street, for the purpose of securing the re-election of the Right Hon. Sir W. Molesworth, who had vacated his seat by accepting the office of her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dr. Challis, the chairman announced that a communication had been received from the Administrative Reform Association, to the following effect:—"That, in the opinion of the committee, the appointment of the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, Bart., M.P., to the office of her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, is an acknowledgement of the principle of Administrative Reform, which seeks to have the right men in the right places in the Cabinet as well as in every office of the Government."

Sir W. Molesworth said he had had the honour of being their representative for ten years, during which time they had had ample opportunity of seeing how he had voted on all great questions of the day. He had endeavoured to represent the best of his judgment, and adverted to his votes on the great question of free trade, and all matters affecting civil and religious liberty. His vote was recorded in favour of the abolition of church rates, progressive reform in administrative affairs, and vote by ballot. He then alluded to the opinions he had expressed in respect to the government of the colonies, and next the aspect of the war. The late Government had exhausted all proposals for peace, and, in order to defend Turkey against the wanton aggression of Russia, and, to stay the preponderance of that great Power over the European States, they, with their noble Ally, had been compelled to declare war. If they looked to the Baltic, they would find that the Sea had been swept of every Russian craft, and the fleet had skulked behind granite walls. Then, in the Euxine, the fleet had been considerably reduced. True, Sebastopol was not taken; but he had great confidence in the indomitable courage and energy of their brave soldiers and sailors and their noble Allies, and that they would persevere in the struggle to an honourable and peaceful end. He was reluctant to plunge the country into war, but when he thought it became necessary to draw the sword, he felt that it was their duty to prosecute the war with vigour and determination, until by force of arms they had brought the contest to a successful termination. He believed that was the conviction and determination of her Majesty's Government.

The nomination is fixed for Friday, at noon; and, it is said, there is not likely to be any opposition to the return of the Right Hon. Baronet.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

REVIEW OF 2ND REGIMENT OF LIFE GUARDS.—The 2nd Regiment of Life Guards, under the command of Colonel Williams, was reviewed on Monday last by Major-General the Earl of Cardigan. The regiment marched into Windsor Great Park at 9 o'clock in the morning, and having formed line, received his Lordship with the general salute: he arrived on the ground at 10 o'clock, attended by Colonel Cotton, brigadier-major, and Captain Maxse, aide-de-camp. After the review, the Earl of Cardigan proceeded with the regiment to the barracks, and made his interior inspection, visiting the riding-school, the men's apartments, the regimental school, hospital, young horses, &c. The gallant Nobleman expressed his entire satisfaction at every thing he witnessed. His Lordship rode his light bay charger which carried him in the memorable charge at Balaklava.

THE WYE. screw iron steamer, (late Hecla), now lying at Portsmouth dock-yard, has been completed with the fittings of Grant's condensers and distilling apparatus. She will sail for Balaklava, and the water be conveyed by rail to the camp, so that in 3 weeks' time our army will be supplied from home with food and water without the slightest difficulty whilst carrying their colours into the enemy's stronghold.

AQUATICS.

REGATTAS AND MATCHES DURING AUGUST.

AUGUST 1.—Humber Regatta. 1 and 2.—Royal Cork Yacht Club Regatta. 3.—Royal Welsh Yacht Club Regatta. 6.—Greenwich Annual Regatta. 6.—St. Mary's, Rotherhithe, Regatta. 7.—Great Grimsby Regatta. 6, 7, and 8.—Manchester and Salford Regatta; entries close July 28. 7.—Leander Club, Coat, Badge, and Freedom for Apprentices, from Putney to Hammersmith. 7 and 8.—Royal Southern Yacht Club Regatta. 9.—Great Marlow Regatta. 11.—First Regatta of the Clyde Regatta Club, Glasgow. 13.—Royal Yacht Squadron; H.R.H. Prince Albert's Cup. 13, 14, and 15.—Royal Thames National Regatta. 14.—Dartmouth Regatta. 15.—Royal Yacht Squadron Cup. 16 and 17.—Talke Tarn Amateur Regatta. 17.—Royal Yacht Squadron; her Majesty's Cup. 20 and 21.—Royal Weymouth Regatta. 22.—Birkenhead Model Yacht Club, second match, for £15; entries close August 19th, at 9 p.m. 22.—Royal Northern Yacht Club Regatta at Dunoon. 24.—Royal Northern Yacht Club Regatta at Largs. 25.—Glasgow Annual Regatta. 30.—Dover and Cinque Ports Regatta. 30.—Mancey and Robins, to row from Putney to Mortlake, for £20 a side. 30.—Thames Surrey Regatta, at Rotherhithe.

YACHTING INTELLIGENCE.

ROYAL YACHT SQUADRON.

COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT, JULY 22.—ARRIVALS.—July 14, Sapphire, schooner, Right Hon. T. M. Gibson, M.P., from Eastward; Lalla Rookh, schooner, Viscount Bangor, Westward; Resolution, schooner, Duke of Rutland, Portland; 15, Gem, schooner, Sir John B. Mill, Bart., Southampton; 16, Turquoise, cutter, C. H. Cooke, Esq., Southampton; 16, Gossamer, schooner, R. Hoare, Esq., Poole; 19, Beatrix, schooner, Sir W. P. Carew, Bart., Western Ports.

SAILED.—July 15, Sapphire, schooner, Right Hon. T. M. Gibson, M.P., to Westward.

YACHTS AT AND ABOUT THE STATION.—Alarm, Leda, Ione, Cecile, Resolution, Turquoise, Aurora, Spider, Gloriana, Titania, Beatrix, Caprice, Dream, Lalla Rookh, Wildfire, Gossamer, Dryad.

FITTING OUT IN COWES HARBOUR.—The Commodore's yacht; Captain Hamlyn William's cutter Laverock.

AT AND ABOUT THE STATION.—Royal Victoria and Albert, Fairy and Elfin, steamers.

LONDON MODEL YACHT CLUB.

SUBSCRIPTION CUP.—The Third-class Members of the London Model Yacht Club, will sail a match for a Silver Cup, subject to the Club rules. The day fixed is the 24th of September, and the match will be open for any yacht not above the Club measurement. The entry will be 5s. for each boat, and September 1st is the last night of entry. All particulars can be had on application to Mr. Kerridge, Wilton Arms, Kennerston Street, Wilton Place, who has been appointed secretary for this match.

GREAT YARMOUTH REGATTA.

On Thursday, July 19th, this regatta came off, before a large concourse of spectators. In the morning cheap excursion trains ran from London and all the stations along the Eastern Counties line, conveying thousands of pleasure seekers to the scene of amusement. The trains from Norwich, however, conveined, as usual, the largest number of people.

MATCH BETWEEN LUGGERS.—The first prize was a purse of 80 sovereigns, to be sailed for by luggers. These are large decked three-masted vessels used in the fisheries, and manned by about 16 men each; nine of them started at 12h. 50min. 9sec., having to sail 2½ miles north of the pier and back again 2½ miles south of the pier. In returning northwards, one of them, called the Ocean Star, ran down another called the Racehorse, which vessel went to the bottom. Fortunately a yawl match had commenced, and the crew of a yawl, named the Queen Victoria, seeing the accident, went to the rescue of the crew of the lugger, picked them all up, and brought them ashore. The master of the vessel was much hurt by a spar. The others came in as follows:—Brothers at 4h. 7min. 42sec., Henry at 4h. 26min. 44sec., Prima Domus at 4h. 28min. 47sec., Bluebell at 4h. 58min. 40sec., Randall at 4h. 58min. 41sec. Only one round was sailed. There was no prize awarded in the yawl match, because one of the yaws went to save the crew of the lugger. The other matches did not come off, the entries not having filled.

The committee did not offer any prize for a match between yachts, so that the character of the regatta was not so well sustained as in former years; but good prizes were offered, to be sailed for by luggers, yaws, life boats, and shrimp cutters, and to be rowed for by beach gigs.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

It being now well understood that the whole of the French loan of £30,000,000 will be taken in France—in point of fact, none but the speculative class ever entertained any doubt on that point—the market for National Securities has been firm this week. We may observe, however, that the actual purchases of money-stock have not been extensive; but that the comparatively small supply of stock in the market has rendered operations for the fall a matter of great difficulty. The efforts made by certain parties in the House of Commons to defeat the bill brought in to authorise the raising of a loan of £5,000,000 for Turkey, have been viewed with some anxiety in the City; but as the measure is now safe, and as subscription-lists will shortly be opened, confidence as been restored, and a beneficial effect has been produced upon the whole of the markets. That the new loan will be immediately subscribed for, is evident; but present appearances indicate rather a serious drain of bullion both for France and Turkey. The stock in the Bank of England has now, in our opinion, reached its highest point for the year; yet we can easily spare several millions without deranging our monetary system, or causing any serious advance in discounts. No doubt, we shall receive very large supplies of gold from Australia—to which colony our exports are steadily increasing; but we incline to the opinion that within a short period, the arrivals from the United States will show a falling off, arising from the decrease in the consumption of English manufactures.

The following are the leading prices of National Stocks, this week:—Bank Stock, 21½; Consols, for account, 90½ to 91½; Three per Cents Reduced, 91½ to 92½. India Stock, 23½. India Bonds, 30s. to 34s. Exchequer Bills, 19s. to 23s. prem. Exchequer Bonds, 100s. to 101. We have had two heavy arrivals of bullion—one from Mexico, the other from

New York. The demand for gold for shipment has rather increased; but the amount taken has not exceeded £60,000.

On the whole, the discount market has become rather tighter, although there is still an abundant supply of unemployed capital to be met with. The best commercial bills are taken in Lombard Street, at from 3 to 3½ per cent. per annum. In the Stock Exchange, the rate for short periods is 2½ per cent.

There has been considerable excitement in the Foreign House for Turkish Bonds, which have sold as high as 91½, but the transactions are evidently falling off. Most other Foreign Securities have ruled tolerably firm. Brazilian Five per Cent. have marked 101½; ditto small, 101½; Danish Six per Cent., 103½; Mexican Three per Cent., 21½; Peruvian Four-and-a-Half per Cent., 78; ditto Three per Cent., 56; Portuguese Four per Cent., 104½; Sardinian Five per Cent., 87½; Spanish Three per Cent., 37½; ditto New Deferred, 19; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cent., 64; Dutch Four per Cent., 94½; Greek Bonds, 5; Ecuador, 4½; Granada, One-and-a-Half per Cent., 16½; ditto Deferred 6½; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cent., 89½; Swedish Four per Cent., 88.

London Dock Shares have been dealt in at 102; General Screw Steam, 17½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 65; ditto New 3½; firm; Canada Company's Securities have been firm, at 121½; ditto Six per Cent., 11½; Crystal Palace, 2½; Electric Telegraph, 18½; Scottish Australian Investment, 2.

Joint-stock bank shares have ruled very firm. Colonial, 21 ex. div.; London, 32½; London Chartered of Australia, 20½; ditto New, 42; London Joint Stock, 31½; London and Westminster, 49½; Oriental, 41; Provincial of Ireland 51½; Union of Australia, 73½.

On the whole, the Railway Share Market has been steady. In prices, very little change has taken place. Caledonian, 63; Eastern Counties, 11½; East Lancashire, 77; Great Northern, 89½; Great Western, 66½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 81; London and Brighton, 101; London and North Western, 95½; London and South Western, 87; Midland, 70½; North Eastern, Berwick, 73½.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The present week's arrivals of home-grown Wheat up to our market, coastwise and by land carriage, have been very limited. Notwithstanding that the show of samples of both Red and White—the latter—has been trifling, the demand for all kinds has ruled heavy; and, in some instances, rather lower rates have been accepted by the factors. There have been fair imports of Wheat from abroad, and the amount of business doing has been trifling, at former terms. We have had less doing in Barley, and grinding qualities have been offered at a slight decline. In the value of Malt, no change has taken place. Good sound Oats have sold at full quotations; but damp qualities have given way 6d. per quarter. Both Beans and Peas have moved off slowly, at late rates. In Flour, no alteration has taken place. The imports from Spain continue on a liberal scale.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 76s. to 85s.; ditto, Red, 68s. to 78s.; Malting Barley, 32s. to 36s.; Distilling ditto, 31s. to 34s.; Grinding ditto, 31s. to 33s.; Malt, 66s. to 72s.; Rye, 40s. to 43s.; Feed Oats, 26s. to 27s.; Potato ditto, 27s. to 30s.; Tick Beans, 39s. to 43s.; Pigeon, 42s. to 48s.; White Peas, 42s. to 47s.; Maple, 40s. to 42s.; Gray, 37s. to 40s.; Townhouse Flour, 65s. to 70s.; Town Households, 64s. to 65s.; Country, 57s. to 60s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 52s. to 56s. per cwt. 280 lbs.

CATTLE.—Very limited supplies of beasts having come to hand, the demand for all kinds has ruled active, at a further advance in the quotations of 2d. per cwt. Sheep and Lambs have been in very moderate supply, and good request, at higher terms. Calves and Pigs have changed hands steadily, at very few prices. Beef, from 3s. 10d. to 5s. 2d.; Mutton, 3s. 6d. to 5s. 2d.; Lamb, 4s. 10d. to 6s. 2d.; Veal, 4s. 2d. to 5s. per cwt. to sink the offal.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—Very limited supplies of Meat have been on sale in these markets, and the general demand has been active, as follows:—Beef, from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 8d.; Mutton, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.; Lamb, 4s.

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